

FEATURES BOLT-TOGETHER, STAINLESS STEEL DRUM AND FEWER MOVING PARTS

Forage Blender Works Like Cement Mixer

Latest new development in lower-cost feed processing is the "TMR Forage Blender". It uses a rotating drum, similar to a cement mixer, to blend the ration, rather than relying solely on augers.

"The TMR (Total Mixed Ration) is energy efficient, has a bolt-together stainless steel drum that doesn't rust and will thoroughly mix small as well as large batches," says David Stoltzfus, of Farmmaster, New Hol-

land, Penn. "Since it bolts together, you don't have to tear out walls or widen doors to move the unit into an area. All the pieces can be carried through a 2 ft. wide door. It only takes 2 men about 4 hrs. to put a TMR together."

The blender also features fewer moving parts than any other mixer, standardized component parts and a mechanical beam weighing system, Stoltzfus points out.

The tilted rotating drum and mixing paddles blend ration ingredients within 3 min. The tilted position moves feed to the rear of the drum where it channels into an auger, which runs through the middle of the drum, and back to the front of the drum for remixing.

Five different models are available. All include the mixer, an electric motor which plugs into a 220 outlet, and the beam scale. An electronic

scale costs an extra \$1,300. The 210 cu. ft., 158 bu. model sells for \$8,850; the 150 cu. ft. unit for \$7,820; the 120 cu. ft. unit for \$6,990; the 90 cu. ft. version for \$6,275; and the 50 cu. ft. mixer sells for \$3,945 but doesn't have the stainless steel drum.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farmmaster, Box 444B, R.D. 1, New Holland, Penn. 17557 (ph 717 354-6235).

Due to the tilted position of the mixing drum, the feed is moved to the rear of the mixing chamber where the return paddles scoop the feed into the return auger. The return auger then moves the feed to the loading end of the mixing drum where the tumble mix cycle is repeated.

To unload the blender no reverse rotating of the mixing drum is necessary. Simply lift the discharge deflector control to the unload position. The feed is then deflected from the return auger into the discharge shoot for quick unloading.

MAKES RIDGE PLANTING EASIER, MORE EFFECTIVE

Corn Farmer Invents Ridge Shearing Device

Tinkering at home to improve performance of cropping machinery led Minnesota corn farmer Douglas Scholl, of Trimont, to invent a planter attachment that shears off the tops of last year's ridges so he can plant corn and soybeans no-till into moist soil.

The herbicide use rate is reduced because it doesn't have to work through the previous year's crop residue. Also, with the ridge system, Scholl has cut back to banding over the row, then cultivating the middles. He estimates herbicide expense savings of 30 to 40%.

The device, for which Scholl has a patent pending, is actually two sets of tandem disks that scrape the crust and crop residue off the old ridge that was built up during cultivating the previous growing season. The disks leave a level top about 14 in. wide on the old ridge and, with the residue gone, it isn't necessary to load on a lot of herbicide to get the weed-control job done, Scholl points out.

He notes that the no-till system works very well for either corn or soybeans. The ridges reach a peak height of about 8 in., when the corn is

about knee high. By the following spring, the ridges have shrunk to 6 in. or so.

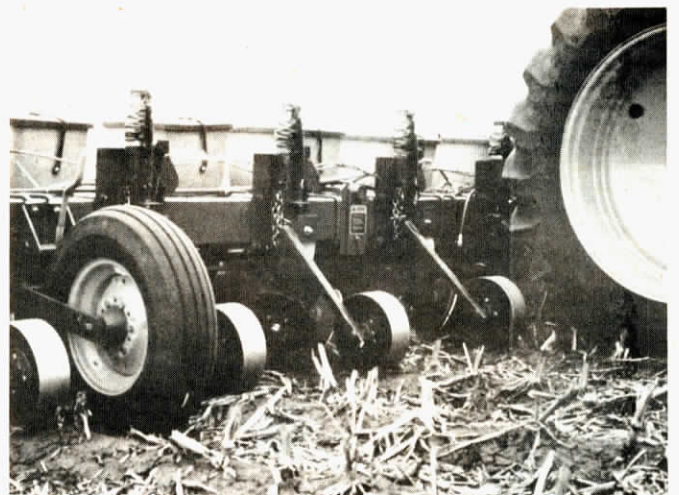
"The home-made disk system, one for each row, lets us plant with a regular Deere Max-Emerge planter," explains Scholl. He's uses the system on the 2,000 acres he and his father, Jim, put to corn and beans each year. The system is particularly useful on their heavy, wet soils, but it's used elsewhere, too.

A guiding mechanism helps keep the disks up on top the ridges, riding out front. "No-till is a lot better when you use ridges," says Scholl, "and this device makes ridge-planting a lot easier. The ridges dry out and warm up faster than on flat ground. We keep our machinery inventory down."

The disks are 14-in., and the two pair knock off only about 1½ in. of soil. Scholl pulls a 12-row planter equipped with ridge shearers at a speed of about 5½ mph, using a 150-hp tractor.

Units, currently available only for Deere planters, are priced at \$450/row.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Douglas Scholl, Rt. 1, Trimont, Minn. 56176 (ph 507 639-6002).



Two sets of tandem disks scrape old crop residue off ridge built up by previous season's cultivation.