

Dear Reader:

Welcome to our 41st Anniversary “Best of FARM SHOW” issue. It’s a dandy collection of most popular products and ideas featured in previous issues of FARM SHOW. Our first Best of FARM SHOW was published back in 1980 - three years after FARM SHOW Magazine was launched.

We’ve inserted handy “Reader Inquiry Cards” which you can use to order free literature and follow-up information on many of the products featured in this special issue. If you’re in a hurry and need instant “where to buy” and other information, just call or write. You’ll find addresses, phone numbers and websites at the end of most stories.

Sincerely,

*Scott Geyer*  
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**Jim Kreger** removed the booms from an old Deere Hi-Boy self-propelled sprayer and mounted a spin spreader on the boom’s lift arms (left). Spreader raises 10 ft. high, allowing seed to launch across top of standing corn.



## Old Hi-Boy Sprayer Seeds Cover Crops

“The conservation district in a nearby county spent nearly \$100,000 on a self-propelled sprayer and converted it into a cover crop seeder, which got me to thinking I might be able to do the same thing for a whole lot less with an older Hi-Boy sprayer,” says Pennsylvania farmer Jim Kreger.

Always looking for ways to optimize their investment in farm equipment, Jim and his son Zach bought a 40-year-old Deere 6000 Hi-Boy sprayer at a farm auction for \$3,000. “The diesel engine ran well and the 4-speed transmission and frame were in good shape, so we just needed to convert it into a seeder,” says Jim.

After removing the spray booms, Jim built a frame to mount a fertilizer spin spreader that he bought at Tractor Supply on the lift arms, which operate on the rear of the machine like a 3-point tractor hitch. The hydraulic pump on the sprayer powers an

orbit motor that drives the spreader.

“The arms lower the spreader so we can fill it with 300 to 400 lbs. of seed from the back of a truck, then raise it nearly 10 ft. high to spread seed across 12 30-in. rows in a single pass,” Jim says. “The rear wheels straddle 4 30-inch rows and the single front wheel runs in the center. Fenders over the wheels split the rows real well. The only knockdowns we had were on the ends.”

Craig Williams of Penn State Extension helped them calibrate the application rate of perennial rye grass, which they applied in mid-August when the corn was fully grown and setting ears. “By the time we harvested the corn for silage in late September we had a nice green mat in the field, which is exactly what we wanted,” says Jim. Seeding into standing corn is definitely better than waiting till after harvest and hoping the crop will establish before freeze up. In

2020 they plan to seed tillage radishes in late July and perennial grasses in August so both crops get well-established before silage is harvested. Depending on the seeding mix, in the spring of 2021 they can burn it down to plant corn or let it grow and harvest the cover crop as forage.

Jim says the economical seeding rig, which he built for about \$4,000 not including his time, provided two other benefits they hadn’t planned on. “The speedometer calculates in hundredths of a mile, which gave us an easy way to calibrate seed application. Also, the operator’s seat is 10 ft. off the ground, so driving through the field that high up was a great way to scout our fields without using a drone.”

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