



With DuoSeed units in the back and a mower deck on the front, cleaning up between rows and planting cover crops can be done in one pass.

Mower/Drill Combo Seeds Crops Between Wide Rows

Bob Recker equipped his Deere 2025R tractor to mow weeds and then drill cover crops between 60-in. rows of newly emerged corn. The crop consultant outfitted the compact tractor to do both jobs at the same time with a front-end mower and a rear-mount set of drill units.

Recker works with farmers to maximize utilization of light by planting in wider rows and improving soil health.

"I was working with an organic grower who was experimenting with no-till, wide-row corn," says Recker, noting that the farmer used a mower between rows to tamp down weeds and cover crops that he planted into.

Recker bought an underbelly mower that he front-mounted to the Deere tractor. Recker fabricated a modified 3-pt. hitch between the front-end mounting bracket and the mower with a hydraulic cylinder for the top link.

The tractor fit between the 60-in. row, but the belly mower was wider than the tractor. Recker cut the blades down to make a 48-in. cut.

"The mower was still pushing over too many weeds and not cutting them, so I trimmed back the mower deck to reveal the tips of the blade," says Recker. "I have to be extra careful that no one is around when starting it up."

To drill cover crops between the rows he cut down a 7 by 7-in. planter toolbar to fit between the rows and mounted 2 DuoSeed drill units from Dawn Equipment Co. on it. Each double disc opener drills 2 rows of seed. The versatile DuoSeed units are designed primarily for seeding cover crops between emerged rows but can also be used to air seed soybeans and small grains and will also place fertilizer.



Recker modified the mower deck and 3-pt to front-mount the mower to his tractor.

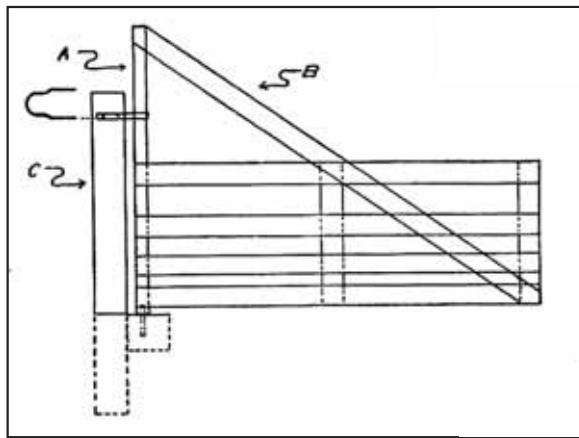
"I've experimented with broadcasting, but without timely rains, it is hard to get good emergence," says Recker. "If you get heavy rains, the seed can get washed away. Planter units can disturb the soil too much and release seeds. I thought drilling in the seed was a better way."

Recker notes that the DuoSeed units are so low disturbance that it can be hard to find the drilled row, much less the seed.

The row units are about \$1,000 each. In addition, Recker used a plot planter seed meter that cost several thousand dollars.

Recker sees the space between rows of 60-in. corn as an opportunity to try complementary crops to corn, not just cover crops. "A small farmer trying 60-in. corn could use a drill like this to plant squash, melons or other crops between corn rows," he says.

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Gate Drawing by Small Farmer's Journal.

Nifty Way To Hang A Heavy Gate

Hanging a heavy farm gate is never easy, especially one made with home sawn timber. We recently spotted this gate hanging "secret" in an issue of Small Farmer's Journal.

Farm gates made with native lumber are heavy, especially when they stretch to 14 ft. The best strap hinges didn't hold, nor did a number of other methods. Eventually the farmer, J. Eric Turner, came up with a gate that pivoted on a pipe and was hinged to the top of the gate post.

He dug a square hole about 6 in. out from the gate post and directly in the gateway. He filled it with concrete to secure a 3/4-in. pipe, leaving about 4 in. sticking out of the concrete.

Turner used a 4 by 4 for the gate post end of the gate panel. He cut it long, so it extended well beyond the height of the gate panel. He then attached a brace from the top of the 4 by 4 to the opposing lower corner of the panel.

With the 4 by 4 resting on the pipe, Turner

created a hinge point near the top of the gate post. After rounding the 4 by 4, he wrapped it with a piece of steel bent to fit and nailed the ends to the gate post. While he used a piece of wagon wheel tire, any steel strap should do. The key here is for the 4 by 4 to turn freely inside the strap.

The weight of the gate rests mainly on the pipe instead of on hinges. While some weight pulls on the upper hinging strap, it is significantly less than with standard hinges. The extra-long brace helps keep the gate from sagging across its length.

Turner's gate tips originally appeared in Small Farmer's Journal Home & Shop Companion #73.

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Livestock shelters from Klene Pipe Structures use 80 percent UV blocking fabric and don't blow over in the wind.

Portable Pipe Shelters Shade Livestock

"We build our livestock shade structures out of galvanized pipe that weighs about 3 1/2 lbs. per foot, so they're not going to blow over even in windy conditions and rainstorms," says Kevin Dockery of Klene Pipe Structures. "I've been here 15 years and have never had a customer say theirs has blown over and we've sold them in just about every state, including Alaska."

Klene started building its uniquely designed portable shades for hog farmers in 1949 and has been building larger shades for horses and other livestock for 20 years.

"We use 2 1/2-in. 10 ga. galvanized tubing for our shade structures," Dockery says. The 10-ft. square by 9-ft. tall model is ideal for one or two horses. It's completely portable and comes with 80 percent UV blocking shade cloth that has triple-stitch hems with rust-resistant grommets. The cloth attaches with tarp ball bungee cords, covering the top and extending 6 ft. down one side. The unit weighs just under 600 lbs. and sells for \$1,595.

A larger 10 ft. by 20-ft. structure is ideal for cattle and other livestock. It's available from

7 to 10 ft. heights to accommodate animals of all sizes. The unit is built on skids with two runners for portability. The skid is the only part that touches the ground, so its easy to move around. Klene supplies the framing and the buyer is responsible for purchasing the cloth shade and adding a wood frame around the top to support it. Call for pricing and shipping costs to your location.

"We've sold these frames to all types of livestock producers who use them in feedlots, pastures and corrals," Dockery says. "They bolt together with strong corner brackets and the weight of the framing holds them in place, even when a large group of stock is using them. The animals step over the base piping and don't seem to bother the corner posts. The frames are built very sturdy so they last a long time. We've got more than 20 years of satisfied customers to support our quality claim."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Klene Pipe Structures, 529 N. Anderson St., Greensburg, Ind. 47240 (ph 812 614-4364; www.klenepipe.com).

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