George Herman, Olney, Ill: "I own one of the early IH Axial Flow 1460 combines and have found it to be a dependable, hard-working machine. However, I've had problems with it while unloading high moisture corn. The rear portion of the grain tank was slow to unload. I remedied the problem by removing the right hand flighting from the rear horizontal auger in the bottom of the grain tank and replacing it with left hand flighting. By reversing auger rotation, the auger now pulls the grain downward instead of pushing upward against the grain."

Pete Klees, Burl, Iowa: "We sometimes break the center out of Soil Saver discs. And when that happens, I repair them using old IH planter discs. First I remove the hub of the planter disk. Then I grind the cutting edge back so I can weld to thicker metal. Then I fit the Soil Saver center back together, place it against the planter disk, clamp it in place, then weld it as shown in the drawing. I have run discs repaired this way for 7 or 8 years. I use E7018 welding rod. The discs are a little warped from welding but that has never hurt performance. The idea works well and costs next to nothing."

F.J. Sappington, New Albany, Miss.: "I discovered a way to lift big round bales of hay when your tractor 3-pt. hitch is too weak to handle heavy loads. I made the discovery accidentally. Simply back the hay lift forks under the bale you want to move - or stab it with a bale spear - and push it over against the rounded side of another bale. Keep pushing the bale you're trying to lift against the side of the other bale, at the same time raising the lift lever to the up position. As the bale you're pushing against rolls away, it will assist in raising up the bale you are trying to lift."

Shaun McKay,Wall, S.Dak.: "We continually had trouble with wind blowing hay off the pickup on our Deere 510 round baler. We solved the problem by hanging mud flaps on the sides of the pickup header. Works great."

Steve Weisbrod, Canastota, N.Y.: "One tough mechanical problem we had was with the hydraulic depth control on our disk. It failed repeatedly. We solved the problem by installing adjustable mechanical depth stops on the lift linkage.

"On moldboard plows we weld used plow points vertically on the cutting edge of the shin pieces. It extends the life of the shin piece 4 to 5 times.

"One good idea we had in our shop was installing our 5-hp. air compressor in a small building outside our shop. It means less noise and dust inside and gives us more shop space. I also recommend using an air hose reel. It saves time many times a day and hundreds of times a year. Really pays off."

Marcus Yoder, Grove City, Minn.: "I built a stand for my chop saw so it's 3 ft. off the floor. Also, when I install a new shop saw blade, I rub a bar of soap back and forth on the sides of the blade while it's turning. Blades last much longer because they don't bind on steel as much.

"I designed and built a 3-pt. hitch for my Farmall 300 that let me keep the swinging drawbar intact. Makes the tractor much more usable but I can still do everything I used to do."

W.B. Woolf, Weyers Cave, Va.: "I kept having starting trouble with my Deere 2640 tractor yet all the components checked out okay. Deere originally had the ground cable attached to the battery box which attaches to the hood. This wasn't giving a proper ground. I ran the cable down to the engine block and the starting troubles stopped."

Dennis Ott, Fairbank, Iowa: "We have a box-type manure spreader with an endgate and 'soup pan'. It worked fine but we had trouble pulling the trip rope. So we put a little hydraulic cylinder on the side of the spreader to open it. That did the trick."

Raymond Hinkle, Pittsburg, Kan.: "I attached pieces of old combine drive belt to the rubber press wheels on my corn planter. They packed soil around the seed better. I simply bolted the 3/4-in. belting to the wheel with bolts."

Donald Lehnert, Sand Lake, Mich.: "I can rebuild a chain sprocket and hub for 15 percent of the cost of buying a new sprocket from a dealer. If a sprocket has worn teeth but the hub is good, you can rebuild it by cutting the hub out of the center and buying a flat plate sprocket from an industrial supply company and having the sprocket bored out to the hub size."

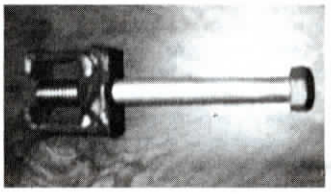
Jim Powell, Medford, Okla.: "I installed a 60-lb. anhydrous ammonia gauge in the manifold of our applicator. It lets you know exactly when you run out of NH3 in the nurse tank or if the diaphram is damaged. It's a real money-saver."

David L. Shaub, Rolla, Mo.: "I have a Deere 1710 Mulch Tiller that used to "hop" in harder ground. I replaced the center rod that has the spring on it with a 1 by 3-in. iron of correct length. That took care of the problem."

Duane Rodine, Polk, Neb.: "I made this tool to remove seed gauge wheels on my Deere Max-Emerge planter," says Duane Rodine, Polk, Neb.

"I was having the arms bored out to accept new-style bearings and needed to remove all of the wheels. After battling for a long time with the first one, I could see I needed something to make it easier or I'd be at the job for a long time.

"Since it takes quite a great deal of force to push the bearing out, the tool had to be made as strong as possible yet space is limited between the arm and the bearing.



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Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of farm equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Mike Hoeft, Delavan, Ill.: Convenience and time saved have more than paid for this unique field service truck built by Mike Hoeft, Delavan, Ill. He says it carries virtually all tools and supplies he's likely to need in the field for his farming operation.

Using the engine, chassis and cab from a 1974 GMC truck, which he bought for $1,500 (it had been used as an egg-hauling truck), he built the service truck from the ground up. A used anhydrous tank, mounted on back, was converted to carry diesel fuel. Hoeft spent months rebuilding the cab and adding a drop frame on the chassis that allowed him to build 10 compartments out of steel framing and plywood that are positioned low to the ground for easy access.

The compartments contain a wide range of tools and replacement parts that he might need in the field. The truck is also fitted with a welder, air compressor, power washer and a generator.

One unusual component of the truck is the way he mounts four chemical tanks, one in each corner of the truck for a total capacity of 240 gal. All four tanks pump to a central location in back using separate valves which are color-coded to be certain there's no mixup. There's a mixing tub on back with a powered stirring device. Out of sight on the truck is a water supply tank for mixing and refilling sprayer tanks.

In all, Hoeft spent about $3,300 on steel and plywood to rebuild the truck, not counting the tools and equipment he outfitted it with.

"Oil Mizer" Recovers Oil

New "Oil Mizer" makes it easy to recover unused oil left inside plastic oil bottles.

Made from recycled plastic, it's designed to mount on any workbench or shop wall. Up to five 1-quart containers can be drained at a time. The containers are placed upside down into ports at the top of a collector, and an empty container is threaded into a port at the bottom of the container. Pop-off caps cover unused ports. An overfill valve shuts off the flow of oil whenever you remove the lower container. Company says you can generally save about a quart of oil out of every case of motor oil. Sells for $9.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Koberg Fluid Systems, 420 Shepard Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30064 (ph 404 425-0907).