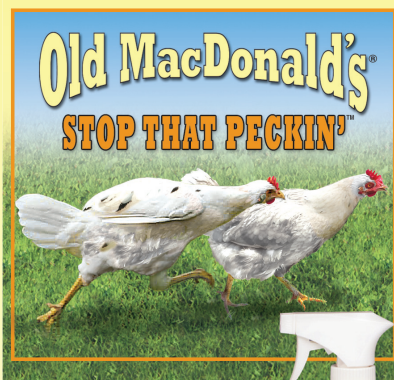


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Reader Inquiry No. 55



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Zimmerman manufactures hard-to-find parts for ear corn pickers.



Corn Picker Expert Sells Parts

Even in this age of high-tech farms and big, expensive combines, there are still some farmers harvesting with ear corn pickers.

But finding machines in good condition can be a problem. New Idea, the biggest manufacturer of ear corn pickers, stopped building units in the late 1970's. Reuben Zimmerman, Barnett, Mo., saw the market for corn picker parts about 25 years ago so he started a business called "Picker Paradise LLC."

Finding replacement parts for corn pickers is getting to be a problem, he says. "A lot of parts aren't available through New Idea any more, which is why I started manufacturing hard-to-find parts," says Zimmerman. "My goal is to improve the design of the original parts for longer lasting service."

One of the most popular parts that he builds are rubber paddle wheels, which replace the original rubber finger wheels on the picker's husking unit. He also manufactures elevator bottoms out of stainless steel.

"I sell a lot of used parts, too," notes Zimmerman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Picker Paradise LLC, Reuben Zimmerman, 64757 Hwy. C, Barnett, Mo. 65011 (ph 573-378-4172).

Home-Made IBC Sprayer Tote

Set an IBC tote on a carry-all, add a spray pump and a boom, and you have a 300-gal. 3-pt. mounted sprayer. While Seth Davis didn't need a spray tank that big, the price was right.

"We have a small farm with about 7 to 8 acres of pasture," says Davis. "I've been spraying multiple products with a 25-gal. sprayer on an ATV. I was doing a lot of fill, spray and refill."

When he bought a bigger tractor, he decided it was time to upgrade his sprayer. "I wanted a 150-gal. sprayer, but when I found one, the seller wanted \$4,000," recalls Davis. "I looked at pictures of sprayers and decided to gather the components and make one."

The 300-gal. tote was the starting point. From there, he went to Amazon and picked out what he needed, such as an 8-roller, pto-driven pump with 100 gpm flow. He also ordered a pressure regulator and a couple of valves, as well as a 4-way splitter.

"I got pressure gauges for the relief valve and the sprayer," says Davis. "My hoses are all 3/4-in. contractor grade and I went with a TeeJet Boominator wide coverage nozzle."

Davis slipped a piece of wood inside the rear side of the metal cage on the tote and screwed the nozzle to it. While most



300-gal. tote was the starting point. From there, Davis went to Amazon and picked out what he needed, such as an 8-roller, pto-driven pump with 100 gpm flow.

components came together easily, the pump was a learning experience.

"I had to double up hose clamps on the pto pump the first time I used it," he says. "To secure the pump, I first tried zip ties, which snapped immediately. My second attempt included adding bolts in holes on the pump and clipping them to the pto cover with a carabiner clip."

When he finished, Davis' costs were well under \$4,000. The tote was \$100, and the other parts totaled about \$850. The carry-all was another \$450.

"I went with a carry-all instead of a dedicated frame," says Davis. "I only use the sprayer a few times a year, but I can use the carry-all other times too."

Davis plans to add a smaller 15-gal. tank to the top of the tote for spot spraying. "I will power it with a 12-volt pump," he says. "It'll be handy for spot spraying with weed killer when I'm using the tote for foliar fertilizer."

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