

He Switched To 20-In. Corn

Ontario farmer John Van Dorp switched to 20-in. rows in corn by modifying both his Kinze double frame planter and his Deere 444 cornhead.

"It lets us increase both plant population and the distance between plants. Higher populations conserve moisture because the crop shades the soil faster. You can increase plants per acre 10 to 20% before moisture becomes a limiting factor," says Van Dorp.

One surprising advantage of boosting populations in narrow rows, according to Van Dorp, is increased combine speed because of the increased number of stripping units on the combine. He says they leave more of the plant in the field so less trash goes inside putting less strain on the combine. "We have to take care in adjusting cylinder speed and concave settings so as not to damage kernels due to the reduced trash," says Van Dorp, who built his own 20-in. cornhead from a used Deere 444 head.

"We first stripped the used header down to the frame and removed the shaft that drives the units in order to install three

additional stripping units and slide the existing stripping units closer together. Then we added extra stripper units from our original combine head. We made cardboard models of the snouts to form new noses and covers. They pivot up like the original noses using chains from the originals to adjust height. The whole conversion process took my brother and I 5 days of work," says Van Dorp.

To convert his planter, Van Dorp bought three new Kinze row units along with offset mounting brackets. He tills, plants and fertilizes in one pass, pulling an Aer-Way rotary tillage machine (Aerway Holland Equipment, Norwich, Ontario, Canada ph 519 863-3414) ahead of the planter. It tills the soil and leaves mulch on the surface. Two ground drive squeeze pumps apply starter fertilizer and nitrogen. A set of Yetter liquid fertilizer attachments band 28% nitrogen 6 in. from the row and 4 in. deep. Starter fertilizer is placed in the furrow with the seed.

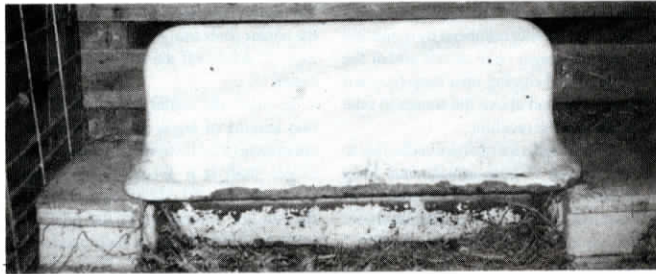
"I've used the system for two years and the advantages far outweigh the disadvan-



tages. We're boosting yields while reducing soil compaction and decreasing soil erosion. Total cost was \$6,900 which includes \$2,200 for the used Deere 444 cornhead, \$3,600 for the Kinze planter units, \$800 for a set of narrow radial tractor tires

for spray work through the narrow rows, and \$300 for sheet metal, angle iron, and Deere nose skids," says Van Dorp.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Van Dorp, Rt. 1, Woodstock, Ontario N45 7V6 Canada (ph 519 537-8769).



Old Appliances Provide Great Airtight Storage

Junked freezers and refrigerators work great for use as feed bins and storage chests, according to a North Carolina sheep producer who says the junked appliances are water and air-tight as well as rodent and bug-proof.

"I'm a part-time sheep producer so I can't justify the expense of conventional bins or auger systems to feed lambs and ewes during lambing time. I grind a ton or less of feed at a time using a small mill," says Carvel Cheves, Bunn, N.C. "I've stored ground feed in old chest-type freezers for the past seven years. With a little auto wax applied as a rust preventative, they'll last many years."

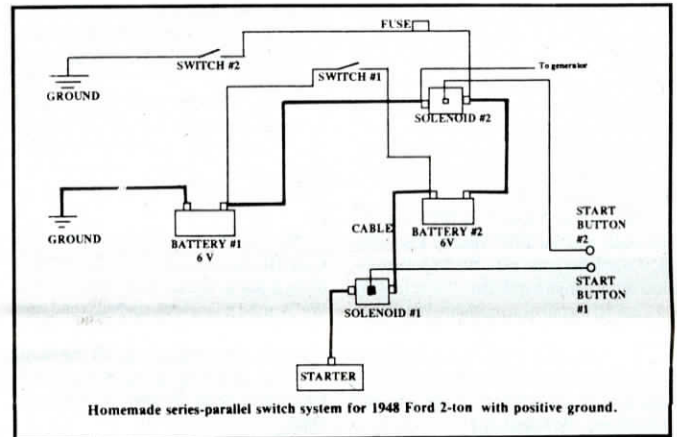
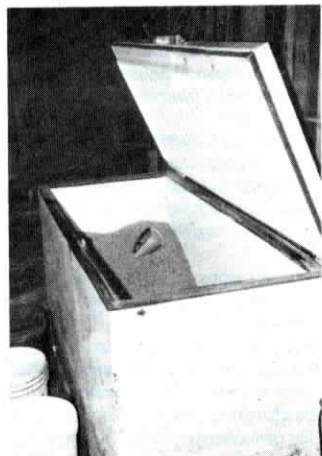
Cheves also turned a 24 cu. ft. side-by-side refrigerator-freezer into dust and mois-

ture-free storage space for medical supplies, barn records, ear tags, tools and other livestock supplies. "It's got lots of shelves for storage space and lets me centralize supplies and save money by protecting tools and materials."

Cheves cautions anyone using old freezers or refrigerators to use magnetic-sealed doors or remove the locks or latches to insure safety.

Cheves notes that he also makes use of old urinals as a feeders. "They're sturdy and porcelain-coated so they're easy to clean. They even have their own built-in drains."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carvel C. Cheves, Jr., Clover C. Farm, P.O. Box 219, Bunn, N.C. 27508.



Wiring Method Doubles Truck Starting Voltage

"We have a 1948 2-ton Ford grain truck that refused to start whenever it got hot, so we solved the problem by installing a voltage doubling circuit," says Reginald Sjodin of Whitewood, Sask.

"This circuit is made up of old parts found in most farm scrap yards. We've used the truck this way for over two years now with excellent results," he says. "This circuit can be used for any truck or tractor with starting problems. You can double 6 volts to 12, or 12 volts to 24 without changing lights, starters or generators."

Sjodin's starting system has two toggle switches and two starter buttons. To start, toggle switches 1 and 2 must be in the off (open) position. Then, just push both starter

buttons (1 and 2) until the engine starts. Now, the two toggle switches are moved to on (closed) to connect the generator.

In-line fuses protect the circuit if switches are left on for the starting cycle.

"The voltage doubling circuit should be easier on your starter in the long run because the truck starts instantly, instead of grinding over and over," says Sjodin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reginald Sjodin, Whitewood, Sask. S0G 5C0 Canada (ph 306 735-2945).

Story and drawing reprinted courtesy GRAINEWS, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bushel "Gauge" For Grain Bins

Retired Iowa State ag engineer Dale Hull came up with a simple way to keep track of how much grain is in each bin on his farm near Ames, Iowa. On the back inside wall of the bin, he mounts a 1 by 6-in. board from the floor to the eave. The board is marked off every 12 in. like a ruler with easy-to-read

red numbers.

To tell how much grain is left in a bin, he simply calculates how much grain per foot each bin holds. In a 24 ft. dia. bin, for example, there's 362 bu. per foot of grain, Hull told FARM SHOW.