"Installation is easy: lay the liner on top of the original feeder house floor and plug weld it in," says Hoodjer. Currently, the feeder house floors are compatible with the S Series, STS Series, and 9000 series of Deere Combines.

Feeder House Floors Fit Deere Models

Ihle Fabrications, LLC of Polk City, Iowa, makes and sells three-piece feeder house floor kits for Deere combines. These kits are designed to withstand the rigors of fieldwork, even running over rocks, and should last two to three times as long as regular floors.

"Our kits are built to OEM specifications," says Sarah Hoodjer, Ihle Director of Marketing. "All of our feeder house floor liners are made with Hardox® wear plates—a construction grade steel. Installation is easy: lay the liner on top of the original feeder house floor and plug weld it in." Currently, the feeder house floors are compatible with the S Series, STS Series, and 9000 series of Deere Combines.

Hoodjer stresses that material quality is a top priority. "We want to help combines harvest more acres with less downtime, so we craft our parts from the best steel available. That's why we're a certified Hardox Wear Steel dealership. Hardox has wear-resistant properties that protect the combine components from wear, impact, and material loss while extending their durability, reducing maintenance costs, and improving overall machine performance."

Each Feeder House Floor Kit retails for $997 and can be purchased directly from the Ihle website. "For correct fitment of your machine, once purchased, our team will reach out for your serial number so we can pull the right components of this kit tailored to your combine," explains Hoodjer. "Ihle Fabrications has a reputation for building affordable solutions to everyday farm equipment problems. We also offer a 24-mo. warranty for each part."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ihle Fabrications, LLC, 4780 NW 158th Ave., Polk City, Iowa 50226 (ph 515-329-8050; support@ihlefabrications.com; www.ihlefabrications.com).

The Thiessen steerable system accommodates 50 to 76 in. tire spacing, center to center. Easy-open and close hitch pins secure implements in place while making tool changes seamless.

Steerable Cultivator Keeps Fields Clean

The Thiessen steerable cultivator provides precise weeding without high-tech technology costs. The design also makes adjusting row spacing and changing implements easy. Ray Thiessen built the first unit for a customer in 2022. It worked so well that he made more and gathered user input.

"We had eight units out this past year for more feedback and made changes accordingly," says Thiessen. "Most of the improvements were fine-tuning fabrication to make them more economical. However, we also pushed the toolbar back about 4 to 5 in. to accommodate the oversized wheels on many veggie farming tractors."

What Thiessen didn't change was the ability to switch out tools quickly. He uses the Tilmor tractor toolbar as the base unit.

"With our cultivator, you don't have to rebuild the setup every time you change a tool," says Thiessen. "You can switch from shovels to a finger-weeding setup in about 5 min."

Another selling feature is the steerability option. While high-tech, automated systems are getting lots of attention, Thiessen sees a need for a manually steered system.

"Our steerable option bridges the gap between an older cultivator tractor and a new, automated, specialty system," says Thiessen. "You can get precision cultivation without the cost of the new technologies. Until you get to larger operations, having a second person help for half a day or one day a week makes economic sense."

The Thiessen steerable system accommodates 50 to 76 in. tire spacing, center to center. Easy-open and close hitch pins secure implements in place while making tool changes seamless. The system uses a standard 2-in. toolbar and is Category I and II compatible.

"Our seat position and footrest adjust easily for operator comfort," says Thiessen.

The Thiessen steerable cultivator is priced at $6,000 CAD or $4,500 USD. Tilmor is distributing the system in the U.S.

Thiessen says affordability is key. "Our first-year sales have been very good," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Thiessen Tillage Equipment, 1167 Lakeshore Rd. W., St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6P9 (ph 905-359-2210; info@thiessentillage.com; www.thiessentillage.com) or Tilmor, 295 Kurzen Rd. N, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 330-985-0002 or toll-free 844-255-5864; info@tilmor.com; www.tilmor.com/en-us/).

Bolt equipment is easily installed onto a wide range of implements.

Planting Zone Temporarily Sterilized With Electricity

No pests, pathogens, or weed seeds remain viable in the planting zone created by Boden Ag's Bolt. Electrodes supercharge the zone with electric pulses that destroy cell membranes. Unlike chemical soil sterilant, Bolt preserves the bulk of the robust microbial population found in healthy soils, allowing them to repopulate the zone within 30 to 50 days.

"Bolt treats a tiny portion of the land, only 3 in. wide and 7 in. deep with standard equipment," says Max Mathison, Boden Ag. "The temporarily sterilized zone gives the emerging seed or transplanted seedling a competition and pest-free start. At the same time, any fertilizer applied at planting will be more effective."

The Bolt technology was invented by Bryan Tomm, an Illinois farmer with the goal of preventing denitrification and leaching of side-dressed nitrogen. "He experimented with the use of electricity to knock out microbial communities involved in the nitrogen cycle," says Mathison. "The Bolt system delivers extremely high voltage at an extremely high frequency between coulters that act as electrodes."

The high frequency reduces the power needed to create the electric pulses. Power is produced by an alternator driven by tractor hydraulics. It charges the on-board battery that supplies the pulses to the electrodes.

"Amperage draw will vary according to soil conditions, from 5 to 15 amps per row," says Mathison. "The amperage draw is usually on the low end, especially in lighter soils. Moist or saturated conditions increase the draw."

Boden Ag was formed to commercialize Bolt and relocated to California earlier this year. The technology is still pre-commercial, with an extremely limited inventory in field trials with high-value crops this year. Pre-emergent weed control, as well as pest and pathogen control, are being evaluated.

"We're moving existing units around to multiple farms to maximize the information we can gather," says Mathison. "In about 4 mos., we hope to have greater clarity and narrow our market focus. We plan to do a limited production run to get more units into rotation over the next 12 mos."

Initially, the technology may be available through leasing or other non-sales templates. "After a year or two, we'll be more comfortable selling the equipment," says Mathison.

While he hopes to return the technology to corn fields in the Midwest eventually, current efforts will continue to focus on high-value annual crops. Field trials in corn showed an increase of 14 bushels per acre, more than seen with commercial nitrogen inhibitors. Cotton trials produced an increase in lint of 249 lbs. per acre, slightly more than commercial inhibitors. Operating costs with a 12-row applicator are estimated at only 19¢ per acre.

"So far, the numbers aren't penciling out for use in corn," says Mathison.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Max Mathison, Boden Ag (ph 916-647-8418; info@boden.ag; www.boden.ag).

Truck Box Carries Fuel And Tools

Transfer Flow, Inc. developed a fuel tank and toolbox combination unit to maximize truck box space.

Built from 12 and 14-gauge high-yield, aluminized steel, the combined equipment measures 59 in. long, 21 in. wide, and 21 5/8 in. high. It weighs 215 lbs. and is sized to fit crosswise in a standard full-size, long or short, truck box.

Box has 40 gal. capacity and can also store 6 cu. ft. of tools.

The 40-gal. capacity refueling tank compartment is DOT-legal for carrying gasoline, diesel, and kerosene fuels. The interior is baffled to prevent fuel sloshing, and the tank comes equipped with a 12-volt GPI, 8 gpm capacity fuel pump featuring a 12-ft. hose and nozzle. A cab-mounted power switch allows the driver to control pumping from inside the cab.

The toolbox boasts 6 cu. ft. of storage space and comes standard with locking paddle handles and gas-filled shocks for easy lid operation.

Transfer Flow's combination unit is made in the U.S. and offers a 6-year unlimited warranty.

The 40-gal tank and toolbox combination retails for slightly over $2,300 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Transfer Flow, Inc., 1444 Fortress St., Chico, Calif. 95973 (ph 800-442-0056; tanks@transferflow.com; www.transferflow.com).