

## "Do Everything" Planter

(Continued from cover page)

do just as good a job planting either crop," he says. He plants beans and small grains in 7 1/2 in. spaced rows and six rows of corn with 30-in. spacing. What's more, when planting corn he injects starter fertilizer on both sides of each row using the row units on either side of the row of corn. Fertilizer is carried in the drill's seed hopper. "Everything's simple and uncomplicated. Easy to operate, easy to switch from one crop to another, and I eliminated an expensive second planter for corn."

Beckman turned the Cyclo seed hopper and blower around backwards - so the blower faces the tractor - and mounted it on the frame of the 750 drill. The air planter's blower is powered hydraulically by a pto-driven hydraulic pump. Seed tubes run from the Cyclo hopper to the 6 row units used for corn. When he wants to plant corn, he simply unhooks the drop tubes from the drill's grain box and connects up the Cyclo tubes. He also mounted the markers from the Cyclo planter onto the Deere drill and rigged them up to raise and lower automatically.

Beckman plants under conditions varying from straight conventional tillage to total no-till, sometimes even planting directly into sod. He says the new Deere drill can handle anything. "It's got about 450 lbs. of down pressure per row and provides great seed-to-ground contact because it slices down through any residue. Does an especially outstanding job planting beans into corn stalks. There's no need for any tillage at all," says Beckman. About the only "tillage" he does on his no-till ground is to

pull a Fuerst harrow behind his hybrid planter, carried by brackets he designed himself.

"Once I saw this drill work, I knew it could plant anything but I needed a delivery system for corn since the fluted rollers on the drill couldn't handle it. A Deere engineer told me I couldn't do it but Deere doesn't have any interest in a planter like this. They want to sell as much equipment as they can because they have a tremendous investment in the manufacture of both planters and drills," says Beckman.

Seed depth with the drill is just as accurate as with a Max-Emerge planter, according to Beckman, but seed spacing is slightly off. "It's not enough to worry about. I consulted with an agronomist who told me that the slight variation in spacing would cost me less than 2 bu. per acre."

He varies plant population from 12,000 to 38,000 plants per acre. He uses the same drive sprockets on the drill for both corn and beans. Both drill and planter seed tubes are fully monitored by a Dickey John monitor. He travels 8 to 9 mph planting beans and 6 mph when planting corn, pulling the planter with a 120-hp tractor.

One of the things Beckman likes best about his hybrid planter is being able to inject fertilizer on either side of corn rows using existing row units. There's no need for complicated add-on equipment. All he had to do was paint the inside of the hopper with a non-corrosive paint. He carries insecticide in a rear-mounted grass seed attachment.

"I started working on the idea for this planter two years ago and used it for the first time last year. I had almost no problems," says Beckman. This winter he used the drill to apply dry herbicides to frozen ground, using the drill to drop chemicals on the surface. He also plans to experiment with impregnating dry starter fertilizer with herbicides. "Liquid herbicides are just too complicated. I'm trying to keep my operation simple and efficient. When I plant I just want to plant without having to take care of spray tanks and pumps."

So far Beckman has used the drill to plant oats, rye, wheat, beans, corn and grass seed. He can plant beans in either 7 1/2 or 30 in. rows and he can easily switch to 38 in. rows for corn, if needed. Last year he planted over 2,000 acres with the new rig.

In addition to eliminating the need for a second planter, Beckman says he's impressed with his savings due to reduced tillage. "I'm saving \$30 per acre in beans. That money goes right back in my pocket," he says, noting that although his yields have been excellent, he looks at the bottom line rather than at yields. In part that's due to the managerial accounting classes he's been taking the past couple years while working on an MBA degree at a nearby college. "I got thrown in with a lot of corporate executives and I saw first hand that one of the highest priorities for corporations is cutting costs. They're constantly looking at every possible way to reduce spending and do things simpler. Farmers don't do that enough. When I started closely analyzing every aspect of my operation, I started getting ideas."

Beckman does public speaking to groups about reduced tillage and other issues.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul L. Beckman, Rt. 1, Box 69, Sperry, Iowa 52650 (ph 319 985-2527).

## HOLDS A YEAR'S GARBAGE

# Garbage Burner With Built-In Compactor

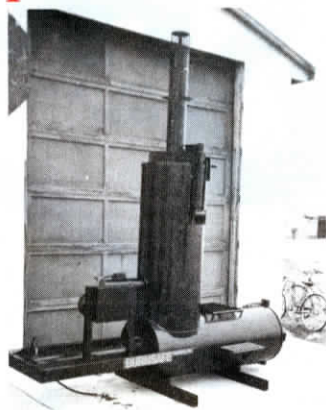
You've never seen anything like this new garbage burner that's designed to burn and store a year's worth of garbage.

"My burning barrels always seemed to be full and I was tired of worrying about starting grass fires. This burner is safe and you only have to empty it once a year," says Doug Racher, Nanton, Alberta. His "Burnsafe Compactor" worked so well for him he started manufacturing it.

He says his standard model takes a family of 6 one year to fill, including cans and glass. "Most people find that hard to believe but the combination of burning and compacting makes a tremendous reduction in volume," says Racher.

The vertical burning chamber is made of heavy 24-in. dia., 1/2-in. wall pipe designed to "last a lifetime". It has a tight-fitting cover that pivots off to the side when trash gets dumped in. A 115-volt blower supplies air to the burning chamber and there's a place to insert a propane torch to start the fire or add extra heat to get wet garbage burning. It's sealed off from the compaction chamber below while burning.

After 3 or 4 months use, the vertical burning chamber fills up with cans, glass and ash. So you hook up a tractor or other hydraulic power source to the 4-ft. stroke hydraulic compacting cylinder and a few strokes of the piston empties the 5-ft. burning chamber and at the same time crushes the entire contents against the far end of the compaction chamber. You can fill and empty the burning chamber 4 times before the compaction chamber fills up. To empty



When the vertical chamber fills up with cans, glass and ash, the bottom compactor is used to empty it.

the compaction chamber, you simply remove the end cap (2 bolts) and push out the contents with the cylinder to haul away or to sort and recycle.

Sells for \$2,200. A larger 30-in. dia. model, which Racher says will handle the needs of 12 people for a year, sells for \$3,600.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Racher, D.R. Enterprises, Box 566, Nanton, Alberta T0L 1R0 Canada (ph 403 549-2299).

## GIVES CONTINUOUS READOUT

# On-The-Go Moisture Tester For Combines

An electronic, automatic moisture tester that's been used for five years on grain dryers has now been adapted for use on combines.

Developed by DMC, the Calc-U-Dri's stainless steel sensor simply mounts near the top of the combine's clean grain auger. It consists of a metal "fin" that extends into the auger. As grain is augered past the sensor, it reads moisture using electrical resistance and sends a reading to a control box in the cab, which can be set to give an audio or visual alarm when moisture reaches a preset limit.

"It saves time at harvest. Moisture content can vary greatly between varieties or even fields and this lets you get a quick reading without having to climb up to take a sample. One farmer, who had two fields side by side with different moisture levels, used the Calc-U-Dri to blend the beans, alternating fields as he combined," says DMC.

Sells for \$1,200.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DMC, 1600 12th Street N.E., Mason City, Iowa 50401 (ph 515 423-6182).



Moisture sensor straps to combine's clean grain auger. A metal "fin" extends inside to take readings off grain passing over it.

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