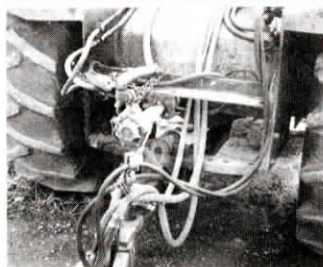
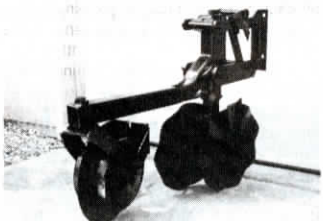


Reader Letters



I wanted to use our Steiger 4-WD tractor to operate the sprayer pump on our tow-behind sprayer, but the tractor didn't have a pto. I solved the problem by mounting a hydraulic motor and pto stub shaft on the back of the tractor, then mounting the sprayer pump directly on the shaft. I bolted an angle iron frame between fender supports, then mounted the pto shaft and motor on the frame. The tractor's hydraulic system provides the power. A flow control valve mounted next to the pump is used to vary motor speed.

Using my 4-WD tractor to operate my sprayer gives me plenty of power and speed on our steep hills. With 200 hp and 4-WD I can spray at 10 to 12 mph and cover a lot of ground fast. The 4-WD tractor lets me spray much faster than the 110 hp Deere 5010 that I had been using. It was underpowered so I was always downshifting going up hills and turning at the end of the field. I can keep my 4-WD tractor in one gear and just throttle back without ever having to shift. I also use it to operate my fertilizer spinner spreader. (Dennis Roy, Box 246, Domremy, Sask. Canada S0K 1G0 ph 306 423-5491)



We replaced the horizontal ridge-cleaning disc on Hiniker's ridge cleaner with two 1-in. Rawson fluted coulters. Instead of clearing dry dirt off the top of the ridge, we now till it right in. We sell this coulters set-up as a slip-in attachment for Hiniker row cleaners.

On my own planter, I mount Dawn trash clearing wheels behind the coulters and just ahead of the furrow openers. The combination of the Hiniker trash-cutting coulters up front followed by the Rawson coulters and then the trash-clearing wheels behind, lets the planter plant in consistent conditions and ensures closing the slot.

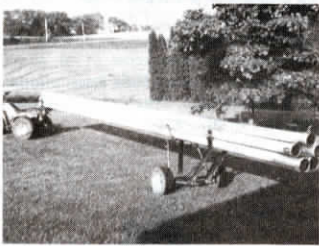
The add-on coulters are staggered and set 5 1/2 in. apart. They run about 3 in. deep, lightly tilling the soil. The trash clearing wheels behind sweep away residue and clods and also lightly till the surface. We like this set-up behind the Hiniker coulters because it's fitted with a depth band that gives us constant depth control regardless of planter frame height. You can also apply fertilizer directly behind the two coulters. The coulters mount on a "stem" that fits right into existing Hiniker ridge cleaners with no modification. They sell for \$250 apiece. Optional fertilizer injector sells for \$26. (Samuel J. Ellis, Rt. 2, Box 72, Chrisman, Ill. 61924 (ph 217 666-3474)

Your article on "drive under" bins (Vol. 17, No. 1) could be doing your readers a dis-

service. If someone reads the article and uses beams that aren't heavy enough the whole complex could come tumbling down. Or, if you have poor soil in your area, you could also have problems because the amount of weight is tremendous. Total weight of the elevated bins described in the article - including the bridge beam structure - would be approximately 261,000 lbs. I can only assume the farmer who did the building calculated what his beams would hold and knew by soil test what the soil bearing characteristics are for his bin site. Otherwise, these bins could pose a potential hazard. (Norvin Pearce, #12 Canal Hts. Dr., Kearney, Neb. 68847)

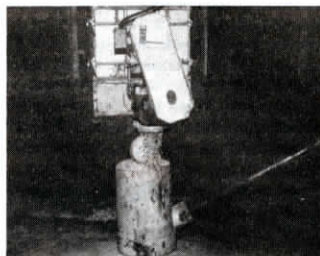
The picture of the round baler mounted on the back of a combine on the front page of your last issue reminded me of an idea I had back in the 1930's. I planned to mount a pickup baler on the back of an SP12 Case. I was going to use that model because it had a main frame I could lengthen to carry the pto baler. Meanwhile, at a farm show in Omaha I learned about the Foster system of collecting straw and chaff direct from the combine into a self-dump trailer. I bought a unit and was so well pleased that I sold them for 5 years. I discovered that the residue from four acres of 90 bu. per acre corn will feed a stock cow all winter. I know. I did it. So I think farmers could supply much of their own feed needs if they would only collect residue direct from the combine. (Edwin Bredemeier, Rt. 1, Box 13, Steinauer, Neb. 68441)

I'd like to tell you what a fine publication I feel you have. I've been a subscriber for the past 10 years and FARM SHOW has it all. New farm products from around the world - human interest stories - farm shop ideas to solve most all of those pesky little problems - and a variety of interests for the whole family. And it's on recycleable paper, too. I send my old copies to friends and relatives around the country. Keep up the good work. (Jack Stiles, 461 Merriman Dr., Apt. 106, Delano, Minn. 55328)

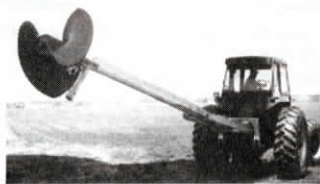


Here's an idea I came up with on my farm. It's an ATV setup for hauling irrigation pipe. I made a small 2-wheel trailer using lawn mower wheels and miscellaneous pieces of steel. The pipe is held in place on the trailer using a couple tarp straps. The U-shaped bracket on the back of the ATV mounts on a shaft that swivels on two 1-in. bearings. I can haul five 40-ft. pieces of pipe at once with only three tarp straps over them. (David Hoover, Rt. 2, Box 50, Patton, Penn. 16660 ph 814 674-5962)

I came up with a compact hopper to use with my shelled corn auger, which carries corn away from the unloader at the base of my Harvestore silo. Initially, I bought a custom grain auger hopper for about \$50 but wasn't satisfied with it because it took up too much space and crowded my walkway. My solution was to cut the top off a 15-gal. plastic teat dip container and cut a hole in the side

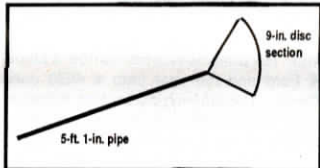


that fit the angle of the auger. So far it has worked well with very little spillage. (David J. Kurtz, Rt. 1, Box 71-A, Belleville, Penn. 17004)



After two years of extensive testing, we're now offering large diameter manure pit agitators with propellers measuring almost 3 ft. in dia. They're designed to be used with tractors from 120 hp. to 200 hp. or more and will fully homogenize large pits in record time. For example, a 12-ft. deep, 100-ft. dia. pit with a 3-ft. crust can be homogenized with a 150 hp. tractor in one hour.

The agitator is equipped with a heavy-duty gearbox, 1,000 rpm input speed which is converted to the lower propeller speed for high efficiency. All our equipment is sanded, pickled and galvanized. (J. Spanjer Manure Management, Tavistock, Ontario, Canada ph 519 655-2678; fax 519 655-2051)



Here's an easy way to make a great tool for chopping ice. Cut out about a 9-in. pie-shaped section of a coulters - either notched or straight - and weld it to the end of a 5-ft. piece of 1-in. pipe. Cut a slot in the pipe to make a good weld. It's simple but makes a great tool. You can grind down the coulters, if needed, to make it sharper. (J. T. Hurst, 1920 N. Honeysuckle Ave., Mangum, Okla. 73554 ph 405 782-5018)

I'm writing to alert FARM SHOW readers to a serious soil fertility problem and what our company is doing to solve it.

Today, more fertilizers are being applied to our land than ever before, yet soil fertility is declining. Part of the problem is the misunderstanding of what fertilizer really is, how it should be used, and under what circumstances.

It is now known that plants can not survive on nitrogen, phosphorous and potash alone. In fact, continued mis-use of these elements will damage and kill plants and soils. Plants must also have all essential trace minerals — not just one or two — for proper, healthy growth. Some trace minerals are put back into the soil naturally. Generally, however, once removed they can only be replaced by adding them to the soil. Mother Nature can't do it alone. She needs our help.

To solve the problem, our company has introduced a complete, balanced organic mineral fertilizer called C-Gro TM Power Blend. It contains 5% nitrogen, 5% phosphorus, 5% potassium and the ten trace minerals plants must have for maximum growth - iron (10%), zinc (2.4%), manganese (1.2%), copper (.60%), magnesium (1%), boron (.10%), molybdenum (.0025%),

sulfur (10%), calcium (3%) and cobalt (.0025%).

Unlike some so-called organic fertilizers, our new TM Power Blend contains all of the mineral elements needed for maximum plant growth — not just a handful. It's also lead and mercury free. Soil bacteria soak up the minerals and reproduce — by the billions. It's laced with a special base ingredient called Clante which speeds the process along by carrying a negative charge. Since the minerals carry a positive charge, they're quickly carried to plant roots and held there until needed — without reaching toxic levels.

Cost of our first-of-its kind complete and balanced mineral fertilizer ranges from \$11 to \$13 per acre, depending on rate and method of application (broadcast or side dress). It's an exciting new product and we'd be happy to send detailed information to interested farmers. (George Tucker, President, Gyro Products, PO Box 7146, Colorado Springs, Col. 80933 ph 719 598-2586)

I installed a forced air heating system in my old 2-story farm house by putting a freestanding wood stove in a room over an attached garage. The stove heats the entire 2,500 sq. ft. house.

The house has electric heat and I got a \$350 bill one month so I decided to make a change. The room over the garage had a freestanding firebrick lined stove that would nearly roast you out of the room, yet I couldn't get the excess heat into the rest of the house. There was no existing ductwork because of the electric heat. To solve the problem I built a vertical 15-in. sq. air chute that starts about 3 in. from the ceiling near the wall that's opposite the stove and closest to the main part of the house. The air chute runs down through the floor and ductwork runs across the house to the living room. A squirrel cage fan at the bottom of the air chute sucks air down out of the room over the garage and blows it into the house. I spent \$300 to \$400 for my forced air heating system. A conventional furnace and ductwork would have cost \$3,000 to \$5,000.

The only disadvantage is that it's a bit inconvenient to carry wood from outside up the stairway each day. I get lots of exercise as I burn 12 or 13 cords each year. (Eric Wallis, Rt. 2, Box 945, Rudyard, Mich. 49780 ph 906 478-7451)



I restored this 1975 International 150 4-WD pickup over a period of five years. I've had a lot of favorable comments on it. Some people even ask me if it's a new model. I found it sitting in a farm yard and bought it for \$475. It hadn't been used for several years and had seen a fair bit of abuse, but the body didn't have any rust and the power train worked. Someone had put oil in the brakes so the entire system had to be cleaned out and all the rubber seals replaced. The transfer case was noisy so I put in new bearings. I greased the truck up and repaired the wiring to make sure all the lights worked.

I replaced the original engine with a bigger 392 cu. in. V-8 engine. It has the same block so it fit right in. I also equipped it with a Holly 4-barrel carburetor and dual exhausts. This added about 40 hp and really brought the truck alive. It also made it more fuel efficient. With the 4-speed transmission and 3:73 rear end it has immense pulling power.

I did some more body work and repainted it a Sierra light bright blue. The truck has