Each year Brusegaard adds shredded hat to his collection on one wall of his shop.

FARMER RUNS HAT THROUGH COMBINE AFTER EACH HARVEST

Strange Tradition Yields Shredded Hat Collection

Every spring, Don Brusegaard, Gilby, N. Dak., puts on a new farm hat and wears it throughout the growing season. At the end of each harvest, he runs the hat through his combine, then adds the remains to his "shredded hat" collection on one wall of his shop. Below each hat, he writes the date that he finished combining.

"I started the tradition in the late 1960's," says Brusegaard. "I did it because I looked forward so much to getting done with harvest. The date sometimes goes into the spring of the year - the latest was when I finished harvesting sunflowers on May 1, 1992.

"A friend once told me 'You can tell someone in the city that you finished combining and they just give you a polite 'OK'. They don't understand. You don't understand unless you've been through it.'

"In 1988 my son Tom started his own 'row' of shredded hats and my daughter Margo and wife Bev have also put some up.

"Some hats go right through the combine unscathed, depending on how they hit the cylinder. However, most end up in two or three pieces. The straw chopper usually does most of the damage."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Brusegaard, Box 217, Gilby, N. Dak. 58235 (ph 701 869-2843).

WATER-DRIVEN DESIGN GIVES SCARECROW JERKY, UNPREDICTABLE MOVEMENT

Birds Stay Away From This Moving Scarecrow

When flocks of sparrows attacked his garden last summer, retired ag contractor Don Dixon got mad. The birds paid no attention to regular scarecrows and he has neighbors too close by to use "sonic boomers". So he decided to come up with something new.

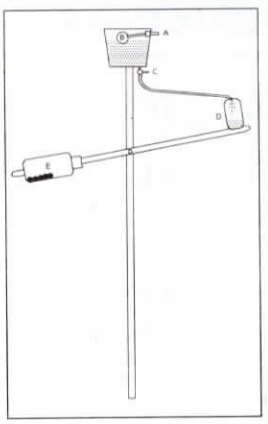
The result is a moving scarecrow that's powered by a slow trickle of water. The head of the scarecrow is a 1-gal. plastic pail that's filled with water. Water flows out the bottom of the pail through a small hose that leads to a cup on one end of the scarecrow's pivoting arms. When the cup fills with water, the weight of it causes the arm to drop, raising the other end of the arm which has a plastic bottle on it with marbles inside. It makes a racket that'll scare any nearby birds.

Key to success is the unpredictability and sudden movement of the bird scarer. At first Dixon had considered using an electric motor but couldn't see how to get movement at unexpected intervals without using complicated electronics. "Water is much simpler and gives the rapid jarring action I wanted," says Dixon, noting that "birds don't get used to it".

A water hose and float can be hooked up to the scarecrow's "head" so the pail refills automatically. A valve in the hose beneath the pail controls the flow of water into the cup on the counterbalanced arms. The cup on the arms is cut out on the side so when it drops, water cascades out, sending the arm back to the up position so the marbles rattle again.

By adjusting the water valve, the operation interval can be varied from 20 seconds to nearly as long as you like.

Dixon now sells the scarecrows through his small garden tool catalog. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Dixon, Corfe Mullen, Dorset, England. **(Reprinted from Farmer's Weekly)**



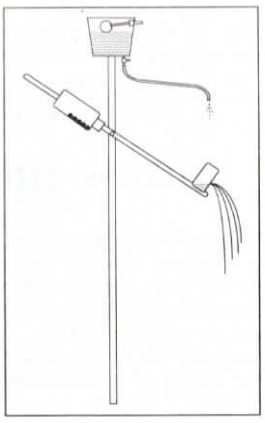


Photo of scarecrow (left) shows how water flows from head to cup on arm, causing the arm to drop. Drawings above show details of system.

Scott built "mini" road grader for his 5-year-old grandson Kenyon.

REPLICA OF CATERPILLAR 140 ROAD GRADER

1/4-Scale Road Grader Built For Grandson

Warren Scott, Stratford, Iowa, built this 1/4-scale Caterpillar 140 road grader for his 5-year-old grandson. It's an exact replica of the grader his son Mark drives for the county, and he also owns a grader himself.

"Now three generations of Scotts have graders," says Scott.

The "mini" road grader took him about 6 months to build and is 14 ft. long and weighs 1,300 lbs. It's powered by a Briggs & Stratton 8 hp gas engine and is exact in nearly every detail to the real thing including a red revolving light on top of the cab and halogen head lights and tail lights. The grader has two axles in back and one axle in front, all salvaged from old Dynamark riding mowers. Each rear axle has a 3-speed "transaxle" transmission, allowing the grader to be used in either 2 or 4-WD. There's a 38-in. wide V-plow snow blade in front, a 5-ft. wide cutting blade in the middle, and a 4-ft. wide side wing in back for moving snow. The steering wheel is from a riding mower.

"It gets a lot of attention in parades," says Scott. "It's not designed for heavy use but it can grade crushed rock. The transmissions are geared at 58:1 in low gear so they have a lot of power. Top speed is a fast walking pace but it can also creep along pretty slow. The operator can drive either the front or rear axle separately or both at the same time. Driving both axles adds a lot more power and traction."

Scott used 1 1/2 by 3-in. rectangular steel tubing to build the frame. The V-plow blade was built using the bottoms from two clothes dryers. He cut out pieces to fit and welded them together. The grille is from a window air conditioner and the hood is off an old furnace door. To make the cab, he bolted sheet metal onto a framework made from angle iron and sheet metal. The cab has 12 shatterproof glass windows and a shaded windshield made from car glass.

The grader has 4 hydraulic cylinders - two to raise or lower the cutting blade, one to raise or lower the V-plow blade, and one to raise or lower the wing. The cutting blade can be rotated 360 degrees so that the operator can turn the blade completely around to work in reverse. The 5-spool hydraulic valve in cab was put together using spool valves from five different IH 303 combines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Warren Scott, Box 98, Stratford, Iowa 50249 (ph 515 838-2101).