CURVED BARS BOOST CAPACITY

Rebuilt Rotors For IH Rotary Combines

Over the past year, Gary Baxter, St. Louis, Mich., has developed a growing sideline business rebuilding rotors on the popular and already highly productive IH Axial Flow combines.

Baxter developed his modified rotor on his own farm when he had trouble with tough crop residue in edible beans and heavy straw in his wheat crop. His rebuilt rotor has curved helical rub bars on the rear half of the rotor rather than the straight factory-equipped bars.

"The Axial Flow is already the Cadillac of the combine industry but the curved bars provide a more even flow of heavy residue, boosting capacity and doing a better cleaning," Baxter told FARM SHOW. "We remove the straight bars and bolt on our curved bars for use in edible beans, soybeans, and small grains."

In corn, Baxter removes the curved bars and installs his version of International's straight bars, which he says also work better than the originals. The factory bars have a slight incline to the rear while Baxter's are perpendicular to the rotor, which he says makes for less friction against the concave, reducing the power requirements while doing as good a job or better.

"Factory combines are equipped for average conditions. Our improved bars equip the combines for all conditions," says Baxter. He notes that the new bars are particularly good in edible beans, which are a big crop in Baxter's part of Michigan, because seed quality is extremely important in determining marketability. He says the crop material follows the curve of the bars, harvesting more gently without having to force material back along a straight line. Baxter says that the more than 100 farmers who have had their IH rotors rebuilt for soybeans, wheat and other small grains have had good results.

"We have been told that International plans to introduce a new rotor design that will incorporate similar new design changes. The company already has a rotor for rice that has some of the same benefits of this rotor," he says.

Baxter rebuilds the rotors on his farm. Farmers should ship the rotors or bring them in themselves. He's had farmers drive in from as far away as North Dakota and Nebraska.

A rebuilt rotor for the mid-size 1460 costs $977. The smaller 1420 costs more at $1,016 and the 1480 costs $1,233.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Baxter, 6434 N. Royce Road, St. Louis, Mich. 48880 (ph 517 463-5508).

Baxter replaces straight IH threshing bars with curved "helical" bars.

Sprayer applies cement slurry to newly seeded fields.

"CONCRETE" EXPERIMENT TAKES HOLD

Australians Stop Soil Erosion With Cement

Cement your fields? Australian researchers are working on the concept as a means of preventing soil erosion on light and sandy soils.

Ron Shaw, staff officer of Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd., explains that a specially designed machine, as well as more conventional weed sprayers, have been used to apply a thin coating of cement "slurry" consisting of cement, water and cellulose material that keeps the cement from hardening in the spray tanks.

The need for cement slurry arises from severe wind eroison problems in sandy soils of Southern Australia. The light soil doesn't hold water well and strong winds often damage young crops or bury growing seeds to the point where they can't emerge.

The researchers' experiments have concentrated on lucerne — an alfalfa related crop — planted in rows 7 to 14 in. apart. Testing has also been conducted in barley and onions.

The sprayer built especially for the slurry application features a roller which ridges the soil. A spray boom is mounted behind the roller with nozzles spaced 14 in. apart to match the ridges. Plans are in the works to add a seeder to the rig to combine operations.

The slurry is first screened through a mesh sieve before being put in the sprayer. The experimental sprayer features a diaphragm pump that recirculates the slurry.

The most effective application rate seems to be at .37 ton/acre which puts on a thick enough slurry layer to prevent erosion but thin enough for the crops to break through.

"It's essential that the slurry is applied to a still wet surface to obtain a continuous coating and to ensure that the cement sets up properly. Spraying on a dry surface is ineffective. The slurry balls up and no film is formed," Shaw explains.

Does the cement have any carryover effects?

"I don't expect any effect on harvesting or the next year's crop. The cement breaks up easily when driving over and working the soil. The slight alkalinity and presence of minute quantities of one or two trace elements may even be advantageous. In fact, a possibility is adding suitable 'trace minerals to the slurry," says Shaw.

Key to the success of the slurry concept, Shaw acknowledges is keeping the cost low. At an application rate of .37 ton/acre, the cost amounts to $20 per acre.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd., Charles Street, Birkenhead, South Australia, Australia (ph 08 49 0400).

Visors flip up out of the way on sunless days, or for washing windows.

CUT SUN GLARE AND HEAT

Sun Visors For Tractor Cabs

You can make your tractor cab more comfortable on sunny days with "Sun Visors" introduced by K & M Manufacturing, Renville, Minn.

The visors, currently available only for Deere Sound Gard cabs are made of ⅛ in. thick, 6 in. wide, dark bronze plexiglass and install without drilling any holes. They flip up and out of the way when not needed, or when you want to wash the windows.

A company spokesman notes that you can install the visors in about ½ an hour.

The visor kit for Sound Gard cabs sells for $160. Kits for most other cabs will be available soon.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K & M Manufacturing Co., Renville, Minn. 56284 (ph toll free 800 328-1752; in Minnesota call 800 992-1702).