

"Tailor-Made" Strip-Till Toolbars Catching On Fast

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

The idea of strip-tilling fertilizer in the fall and then planting into the cleared strips the following spring is catching on fast. Other farmers strip-till in the spring while applying liquid nitrogen and then plant into the cleared strips soon after. Until now, farmers who've tried the idea have made their own fall strip-till rigs. Now at least three companies are selling equipment to do the job.

DMI

DMI builds both pull-type and mounted strip-till rigs that can be equipped to apply either dry fertilizer or anhydrous in the fall. All units are equipped with markers so you can lay out evenly-spaced rows to plant into the following spring. To apply dry fertilizer, a Concorde air unit is towed behind. Components include a 20-in. coulters, followed by a knife with beavertail sealer on bottom, and double disc sealers (to seal in anhydrous). The double disc sealers leave a mound of soil that warms up early in the spring. Residue mixed into the soil helps prevent erosion.

A pull-type 12-row model sells for \$14,200. A 12-row mounted model sells for \$11,400. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DMI, Inc., Rt. 150 E., Box 65, Goodfield, Ill. 61742 (ph 309 965-2233).

Dawn Equipment

Dawn Equipment Co. recently introduced an add-on strip-till attachment that lets you turn any fertilizer applicator into a strip-till machine using the company's popular row-clearing Trashwheel for row crop planters. The system includes a DMI coulters followed by the spring-loaded Trashwheels, a DMI knife, and new "Trashhandler" closing wheels. Lets you make year-round use of planter Trashwheels. Or, you can purchase new units, allowing one person to

strip-till and another to plant at the same time. "The spiked closing wheels are used in place of conventional solid closing discs. They crumble the soil for better sealing than discs and generally leave no cut edge to erode," says Jim Bassett. "You can clear and work strips of soil while applying anhydrous in the fall, then plant into the strips in the spring. Or you can strip till 28% liquid nitrogen in the spring and then plant into the tilled strips shortly after."

Sells for \$220 per row.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dawn Equipment Co., Box 497, Sycamore, Ill. 60178 (ph 815 899-3296).

Progressive Farm Products

Progressive Farm Products, Bloomington, Ill., equips its strip-till toolbar with 20-in. coulters followed by anhydrous knives and disc sealers. Anhydrous or liquid fertilizer can be deep banded directly behind the knives. An "in-between" spray caddy with a rear 3-pt. hitch can be used to pull the toolbar. A hitch on back of the toolbar is used to pull an anhydrous tank. The toolbar is equipped with markers. Spring down pressure keeps the coulters cutting through heavy residue. A 12-row applicator sells for \$13,500. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rich Follmer, Progressive Farm Products, Inc., RR 1, I-39, Exit 2, Hudson, Ill. 61748 (ph 309 454-1564).



You can turn any fertilizer applicator into a strip-till machine using Dawn's Trashwheels and the company's new Trashhandler spiked closing wheels.



An "in between" caddy can be used to pull Progressive Farm Products' strip-till applicator, which consists of a 20-in. coulters followed by anhydrous knives and disc sealers (not shown in photo).



DMI builds both pull-type and mounted strip-till applicators. Disc sealers leave a mound of soil that the company says warms up faster than a bare strip in the spring.

"Stuck Cables", Rice Tires Help Farmers Get Through Muddy Harvest

Many farmers with wet fields this fall have tried lots of expensive options like tracks, dual wheels, and add-on rear-wheel drive. Here's a couple ideas that cost much less but have been a big help to some farmers.

Cecil Anderson, a Thief River Falls, Minn., equipment dealer, encouraged his farmer customers to install "stuck cables" on combines before heading to the field, according to a story by Lon Tonneson in Minnesota Farmer. Anderson recommends running 1/2-in. thick steel cables from the front axle, back through the frame and out the back of the combine. That way, if you get stuck you won't have

to dig under the combine when it's stuck to attach cables to the frame. He says you should never try pulling out a stuck combine by the rear axle because you're likely to pull it right off.

Rodney Sonstelie, a farmer and equipment sales representative, says many farmers in northern states who've never even seen a rice crop have had success in muddy conditions by putting rice tires on their combines. Rice tires are larger and have deeper lugs than standard combine tires and can provide as much traction as duals. A pair of rice tires sells for about \$4,000 new.

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