



Gandy seed blower mounts on tongue of McFarlane harrow cart. Tubes run back to row of special brackets mounted across front of harrow.

"NEAR PERFECT" EQUI-DISTANT SPACING AT HALF THE PRICE OF NEW NO-TILL DRILLS

Harrow Seeder Produces Evenly-Spaced Crops

"We think it's the best air seeder on the market. Produces near perfect equi-distant spacing," says Fred Gilman, sales manager for Stoller, Inc., Pontiac, Ill., about the new harrow-mounted air seeder he put together by combining a Gandy Orbit-Air seeder and a special-built McFarlane 16-bar flexible harrow.

Gilman, who also farms, says he got the idea after observing farmers around his state who were having fertilizer companies come out to broadcast soybeans and then used harrows to incorporate the seed. Everyone seemed happy with the idea so Gilman went to McFarlane Manufacturing Co., in Sauk City, Wis., with the idea of designing a McFarlane harrow with a strong enough frame to carry the weight of an air seeder.

"It gives plants more room to grow with extra sunlight and nutrients. You can get near-equidistant spacing with new no-till drills coming on the market but they cost more than twice as much as this new harrow seeder," says Gilman.

The Gandy seed blower mounts on the tongue of the harrow cart and tubes run back to a row of special brackets mounted across the front of the harrow. Tubes are spaced 1 ft. apart and they blow seed onto deflector plates that spread seed out evenly over the ground. Then the harrow works them into the ground down to a depth of about 2 in.

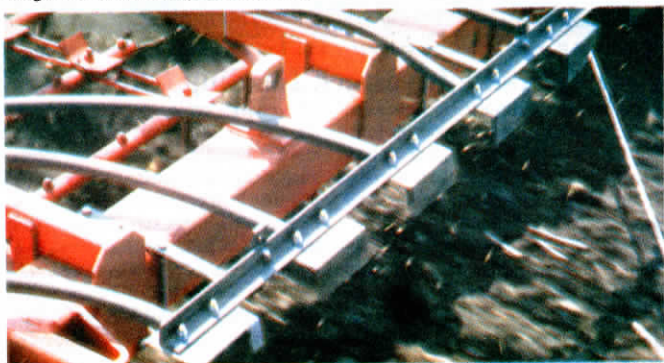
"Unlike air seeders mounted on field cultivators, which often leave streaks and plant some seed too deep and leave some seed on the surface, this harrow seeder creates a beautiful seedbed, leaving seed at a much more consistent depth," notes Gilman.

One problem with the harrow seeder is that it leaves the soil loose so seed-to-soil contact is not always the best. To be safe Gilman recommends bumping up the seeding rate by about 20 percent. If lack of moisture is a problem at the time of planting, he says you may have to use a conventional drill which will pack the furrow. "We're thinking of adding rolling baskets to the back of the harrow which may help pack the seed better," he says.

Gilman says the harrow seeder should also work well in alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, and other small grains. "It might work even better in wheat than in soybeans because germination time isn't usually so critical. You've got more time if moisture conditions aren't just right."

A 24-ft. wide 16-bar harrow and air seeder sells for \$14,000 complete.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McFarlane, 1259 South Water Street, P.O. Box 577, Sauk City, Wis. 53583 (ph 800 627-8569 or 608 643-3321).



Tubes are spaced 1 ft. apart and blow seed onto deflector plates that spread seed out.



Elliptical shape of furnace and domed end sections help reduce stress on welds.

AUTOMATICALLY IGNITES FIRE ON DEMAND WITH FUEL OIL

"State-Of-The-Art" Outside Wood Burner

"It's the best-built, most sophisticated outside wood furnace ever built," says Chuck Dahlgren, president of Acucraft, Inc., manufacturer of a new wood furnace that he says is designed to eliminate many of the problems that have cropped up with other wood burners on the market.

"Outside wood burners have become increasingly popular over the past 5 to 10 years but now that many of them have been out there a while, people are starting to have problems such as cracked welds, corrosion, waste of wood when no heat is needed, and so on. We set out to solve all the problems we heard about and add many new features never before seen on a wood burner," says Dahlgren, noting that Acucraft has been in the wood heating business for 13 years with its popular masonry fireplace.

The Acucraft furnace is elliptical in shape with domed end sections which Dahlgren says reduces stress on welds as compared to square or cylindrical units. The company also double welds all joints. The firebox is surrounded by a 1,000-gal. water jacket, the outside of which is covered with 3 in. of urethane insulation and a metal housing.

One feature that makes the furnace unique is that it's the only wood burner on the market that automatically self-ignites when heat is called for and shuts down completely when no longer needed. Most wood burners burn slowly at a "maintenance" level when heat is not needed to keep the fire going.

"Savings in wood are tremendous and because of the huge capacity of this furnace (the 1,000-gal. water jacket can store up to 350,000 btu's), in many cases it will only burn an hour or so a day and then shut down," says Dahlgren.

The fire is ignited by fuel oil and fed by a forced draft fan. When the thermostat calls for more heat, a fuel oil burner kicks in to ignite the wood. A 30-gal. fuel oil storage tank is built into the furnace.

Another unique feature is the furnace's

secondary burning chamber. Outside air is fed into the upper chamber where smoke and other gases gather, causing them to ignite. "As a result, the furnace produces almost no smoke and we capture heat which would otherwise be lost, nearly doubling the efficiency of this unit as compared to other similar-size wood burners," says Dahlgren.

The fire chamber has a heat exchanger built into it to transfer heat to water, which is then pumped to buildings being heated. The Acucraft water system is equipped with an external expansion tank which allows no oxygen to enter the water jacket chamber, eliminating corrosion problems which have plagued many other units. It also reduces the need to frequently add water. The only water loss is evaporation through the small stand pipe on the expansion tank.

Heating capacity of the new furnace is at 750,000 btu/hr., which means it's capable of heating a single home or several farm buildings totalling up to 30,000 sq. ft. Depending on the area being heated, it will only burn as much wood as needed.

"We're only making one model because we wanted a unit that could handle the needs of most farms. Also, due to the design of the unit, it would not cost that much less if we built a smaller model," points out Dahlgren, noting that the stove has been undergoing extensive tests the past two winters. He says one prototype, installed on a 7,500 sq. ft. shop in Minnesota, burned an average of just 1 hr. a day last winter and was shut down the rest of the time. "The savings in wood and labor, as compared to other units which burn continually, is tremendous."

Sells for \$6,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acucraft, Inc., 20100 West Highway 10, Big Lake, Minn. 55309 (ph 612 263-3156).