



Photo by Mindy Desens

He Combines Soybeans Diagonally

Herald Barton, Silver Lake, Minn., has combined all of his 400 to 600 acres of soybeans diagonally for the past 15 years. He says it's the only way to harvest.

"I've found that all sections of the bean head actually cut," says Barton. "They all wear evenly, and the sickle lasts much longer. The beans feed evenly into the combine, not in bunches. Especially when they're standing well, they don't tend to cling to each other."

Barton cuts at about a 45 degree angle to the row. "If your angle is too parallel, you tend to flatten out rows as the divider goes through and some beans won't be picked up. By the same token, too great an angle causes the combine to hump or rock. The divider on the sickle bar should float one to two inches above rows as it passes through. If the divider rides the ground it can flatten some stalks."

It's also important to stay to one side of the field, making the return trip along the same line just completed. "That way if any beans are pushed out with the snoot on the last trip, you'll pick them up. It's also necessary to avoid combining directly into or away from the wind. A crosswind works best to take dust away from you."

In wet years or when beans are badly

lodged, Barton insists that a diagonal path is the only way to go. "Going at an angle allows the tires to grip onto rows. If you go between rows you'll tend to cut in."

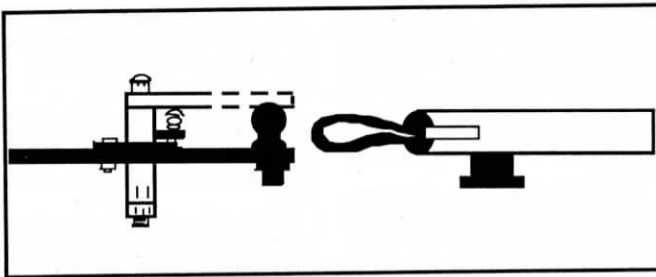
Approaching lodged beans from the right angle lets the combine pick them up more easily. "If they're lodged to the right, you want to cut through on your right side. The beans should fall into the field. You don't want them to drop out away from the field, but be supported by the rest of the crop."

Night combining and working weedy fields is particularly easy when soybeans are combined diagonally, because it's less critical to see the rows.

The only problem with diagonal combining is that if stalks are less than 10 1/2 percent moisture, they have a tendency to break off. Barton minimizes this problem by beginning harvest when beans are at 16 to 17 percent moisture.

Barton says he picks up less dirt with a diagonal path, because he's riding on top of the rows. "We've also found that we have less chance of picking up a rock. We tend to just push it back between the rows."

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Do-It-Yourself Quick Hitch

"It lets me hitch and unhitch hay wagons without ever getting off the tractor," says Don Thompson, Sutherland, Neb., about his do-it-yourself quick hitch.

Thompson welds or bolts a loop of heavy rod to each wagon tongue and puts a short stand under the tongue to keep it off the ground. He puts a standard ball hitch on the tractor drawbar. To hitch up, he reaches out through the back cab window with a long hook to pick up the wagon tongue and set it down over the ball hitch. (When not used,

the hook stores across the tractor fenders.)

An optional safety catch can be installed if you plan to pull over rough fields or on roads. It's spring-loaded and swings into position over the top of the ball hitch to keep the tongue loop from bouncing off. The same handle that lifts the tongue can be used to move the safety catch into position.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Thompson, HCR 72, Box 54, Sutherland, Neb. 69165 (ph 308 764-2329).

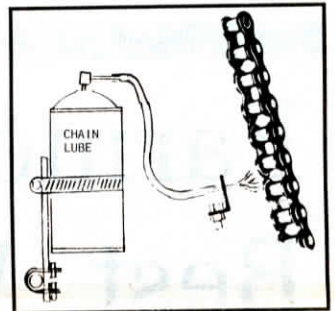
"Best Ideas"

Chain Lube Setup

"It's an easy way to lubricate hard-to-get-at chains," says Roger Kuntz, who came up with a simple lube system using aerosol cans to oil the chains on his old Gleaner CII combine as well as other equipment on his farm. He says all the parts needed can be purchased off-the-shelf or his company, Ag Enterprises, sells a do-it-yourself kit.

"It eliminates the mess normally involved with lubrication and because it takes just a second you're more likely to use it even when you're busy," says Kuntz.

He mounts an aerosol can in a convenient location and runs a clear polyvinyl hose from the can to the chain. Both the can and end of the hose are held in place with metal brackets. The hose is small enough so it fits snugly over the long plastic snout supplied with most aerosol cans. He applies lubrication to the inner side of the chain so that centrifugal force will dispense lube into the



chain rather than flinging it off.

Kuntz sells all components separately (hose \$.75/ft.; hose bracket \$2; can mounting bracket \$4.50; can of aerosol lube \$5.00) or as a complete kit with 20 ft. of hose for \$19.95 (\$2.00 shipping).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 (ph 913 673-4728).

Broadcasting Beans

If broadcast seeding works for oats and other small grains, then why won't it work for soybeans?

That's a question Mark Kunkle, Peru, Ind., asked himself several years ago before he began broadcasting soybeans with a truck-mounted fertilizer spreader. He cut costs and got as good or better yields, according to a report by Clair Urbain in *Farm Journal*.

He first works the ground and then surface-applies his herbicides before broadcasting an average of about 90 lbs. of seed per acre (about 220,000 seeds). He incorporates the herbicide and seed at the same time with a field cultivator and cultipacker. Most seed ends up 1 3/4 in. to 2 in. deep but some ends up on the surface and some is buried deeper.

He broadcasts seed at speeds up to 10 mph. One advantage of using the 200-bu. spreader is that he can buy seed in bulk, saving 30 to 50 cents per bu. He notes that it's important to use a spreader with infinitely variable spreading adjustment and to get the beans worked into the soil as soon as possible. He also says combining is easier with broadcast beans because if they're lodged he can cut in any direction.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Kunkle, Rt. 5, Peru, Ind. 46970 (ph 317 473-9655).

"Slaughter Horses" Pay Off For Grower

Drought-ravaged pastures last summer forced horse owners across the Upper Midwest to sell horses they no longer could afford to feed. Bob Starr, Redwood Falls, Minn., saw the sell-off as a potential meat-export opportunity, according to a recent story by Jim Dickrell in *The Farmer Magazine*.

Starr bought the horses through horse buyers in Carrington, N. Dak. and Cannon Falls, Minn., and 43 were trucked in from throughout the Midwest. They were Appaloosas and large-framed quarter horses averaging only about 975 lbs.

Including trucking and commissions, Starr had \$34/cwt in the horses at delivery last September. He had pastures, corrals and haylage available because he had sold off his 75-cow beef herd earlier in the year. His goal was to get experience feeding horses to determine if it might be a viable option to cattle again in the future. His preliminary conclusion was that in order to make them pay you either have to get the animals cheaply or have a source of cheap feed. The meat was exported to France, Italy, Switzerland or Japan from Morton, Tex., location of a horse slaughter plant.