

CUTS THROUGH HEAVY TRASH

Knife Kit Turns Rotary Hoe Into Stalk Chopper

You can turn your rotary hoe into a stalk chopper by equipping it with a new knife kit that lets it cut through trash without plugging. Even if you're not interested in chopping stalks, the knife kit lets you cut through the heaviest trash while using your hoe to aerate the soil, incorporate chemicals, cultivate weeds out of row crops, etc.

Inventor-manufacturer Rick Heintzman, Onaka, S. Dak., says pairs of tungsten sickle blades clamp onto the wheel shanks about 1 in. from the opposing wheel. He also fits each wheel with his no-till conversion kit that consists of an axle extension and bearing protector. (He's been selling the no-till kit for two years - see FARM SHOW's Vol. 16, No. 4).

"The bearing protector moves the wheel close to the next arm instead of dead center between arms, allowing rocks, trash, root balls, etc. to flow through without plugging," says Heintzman. "Under dry conditions the hoe is virtually impossible to plug. You can use it to aerate the soil and incorporate chemicals in the spring, to kill weeds in row crops, or to chop corn, soybean, or milo stalks in the fall. By aerating the soil you can no-till plant 7 to 10 days earlier.

"The blades shear off trash and allow you to chop corn, soybean, sunflower, and other crop residue at 12 to 15 mph. They also do a great job of cutting through corn root balls.

"My hoe conversion kit costs about \$100



Kit consists of a pair of sickle blades that mount on rotary hoe arm and an axle extension with bearing protector that moves wheel over for extra clearance.

per foot for Deere models, so the cost for a 40-ft. rotary hoe is about \$4,000. A new Deere 40-ft. rotary hoe sells for about \$16,000. It's cost effective to convert a new rotary hoe because the kit will allow it to work under all conditions without plugging up."

On Deere rotary hoes the front and rear wheels are mounted on a walking axle assembly. Heintzman turns the wheels upside down to reverse them and then mounts them on a specially designed 22-in. long extension arm. A spring mounted on the front side of the arm forces the front wheel up and the rear wheel down. The sickle knives bolt onto the rear part of the axle. "The tougher the conditions, the better the blades cut," notes Heintzman.

The no-till kit for Deere rotary hoes sells for \$29 per wheel with knives and \$24.95 without. Models for Yetter, M & W, and Case-IH rotary hoes sell for \$25 per wheel with knives and \$17.50 without.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heintzman Farms, Rt. 2, Box 265, Onaka, S. Dak. 57466 (ph 800 333-5813 or 605 447-5821).

"Swamp Tires"

(Continued from page one)

center the weight of the combine. He has rims made in both Jacksonville, Fla., and Monroe, La. Width of the 16-ply tires is about equal to duals. They sell for about \$8,400 a pair.

Corzine plans to use the wide tires even in dry years to reduce compaction. The biggest advantage over tracks, he says, is that he can drive the combine over the road with the big tires on.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Barry, Larry's Tire Service, 401 N. Webster, Taylorville, Ill. 62568 (ph 217 824-9060 or 6812).



Big loader-mounted bale scoop picks up 10 to 20 bales at a time in the field.

SPEEDY NEW BALE-HANDLING SYSTEM

"Hay Scoop" Makes Bale Handling Easy

"We were tired of hiring people to put up bales and didn't want to spend the money on a fancy bale wagon so I made this giant hay scoop to mount on my tractor loader. It picks up 10 to 20 bales at a time to drop into a silage wagon which then rear-unloads the bales back at the barn," says Eric Van Dijk, Harrison Mills, British Columbia.

"It's unbelievable how well it works. There's almost no breakage. And the only cost for the entire system was for welding rods since I just used scrap I had around the farm," says Van Dijk.

Van Dijk made the scoop out of 1 1/2-in. steel pipe anchored on a 12-in. I-beam that runs across the back end. The scoop rests on top of a pair of loader forks that he already owned. He crushed the front ends of the pipes so they wouldn't dig into the ground. The scoop simply glides along on top of the mown hay when picking up bales.

A bale sled that's towed behind his Deere baler leaves bales in groups of six in the field. They drop the piles in a line at one end of the field. Van Dijk simply scoops up two or three of the piles at a time and dumps them into silage wagons.

"We use the apron chains in the wagons to unload bales back at the barn," says Van Dijk, noting that no modifications were made to their Deere 346 baler or to the silage wagons. "We put up approximately 12,000 square bales a year. This hay scoop makes the job easier and a lot more enjoyable."

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Bales are unloaded back at barn by simply reversing apron chain on silage wagon to dump bales out back.



Van Dijk uses bale scoop to dump bales into silage boxes. He says there's surprisingly little breakage.

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