



A lift bar attaches to 3-pt. top link and connects to a 4 by 8-in. cylinder. Steel cable, which runs to indicator ahead of cab, attaches to lift bar.

LETS OPERATOR ACCURATELY ADJUST DEPTH WITHOUT LOOKING BACKWARD

New Way To Monitor & Control Planting Depth

A Texas farmer with a variety of soils in his mile long fields came up with a new way to monitor and change depth control on his planter on the go without even having to look back.

"My farms do not have uniform soil types. I have some rows that are more than one mile in length. Within these long rows, for instance, I have some spots that are very sandy and soft and I have some low spots with much heavier, compact soil that's harder to penetrate. It doesn't seem to matter how well I prepare the seedbed. The planter will plant too deep in the sandy soil and not deep enough in heavier soils," says James Streit, who farms near Vernon, Texas.

"One of my planters consists of a 4 by 4-in. toolbar fitted with older Tye planting unis. The toolbar mounts on a tractor 3-pt. and depth is normally adjusted by lengthening or shortening the top link. I installed a scissors-type arm made out of 1 by 3-in. iron bar which is worked backward and forward by a 4 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder," says Streit.

Key to success of the set up is the flexible steel cable Streit installed that runs from the lift mechanism up to a gauge in front of the tractor cab. "The cable is like the ones used to engage or disengage hydraulics on a grain truck hoist. The cable runs up to a piece of 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing that I mounted on top of the battery box just ahead of the cab. I painted the tubing white and painted three black lines on it spaced 1 in. apart. When the end of the cable is on the middle line, planting depth is average. When I want to plant more shallow in sandy soil, I use the



Three gauge marks, spaced 1 in. apart, correlate directly to planter depth.

tractor's hydraulics to adjust planter depth until the end of the cable is on the top line. To plant deeper, I adjust depth so the cable end moves down to the bottom line. The three black lines are spaced 1 in. apart and that correlates directly with the depth of the planter so the range of movement measured is 2 in.

"The system has a very close tolerance so very precise planting depth can be achieved. I've used this idea for two seasons without outstanding results. I don't know of anything like it on the market. It's accurate and simple and there's little to go wrong."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Streit, 13658 CR 138W, Vernon, Tex. 76384 (ph 817.552-5326).



Indicator bar mounts on top of battery box at front right corner of cab.

LETS YOU TEST POPULATION SETTINGS IN JUST A FEW FEET

"Drill Rate Calculator" For Soybeans, Wheat

If you've ever had problems setting your grain drill at the correct population rate without having to first plant several acres, you'll want to take a close look at this "drill rate calculator" that lets you test population settings within a few feet.

The drill-rate calculator is available in two models, one for soybeans and one for wheat. It consists of a clear plastic tube with a plastic cone on top and a plastic cone-shaped base. It mounts inside the drill's seed hopper on top of any seed cup, and comes with a drill rate calculator chart.

"It lets you plant seeds per acre instead of pounds per acre for better population control and reduced production costs," says Bob Wells, Agri-Gauge, Inc., Sharpshville, Ind. "It should be used every time you change varieties or seed sizes. Switching to a different size of soybean seed can result in a 30% increase or decrease in the number of seeds per acre. The calculator allows you to compensate for the change in seed size and plant the correct population."

Wells, a Deere implement dealer, came up with the calculator after Ted Salsbery, a customer, bought a drill from him and complained about having to plant 20 acres of soybeans before he was able to set the drill correctly. The two went into business together to design, test, and market the product.

The calculator comes with a pair of springs that secure the base of the tube to bolts on either side of the seed cup. Then, using a chart, you match your row spacing with the desired number of seeds per acre to determine a test distance. Next, you step off the test distance in the field and fill the calculator tube to the line representing the number of seeds per pound as marked on the bag of seed. After drilling the measured test distance, if the seed is at the base line of the



New drill calibrator is placed on top of any seed cup inside drill hopper and filled with a measured amount of seed.

tube, your drill is set properly. If seed is above the base line, reset the drill at a higher rate. If seed is below the base line, reset the drill to a lower rate.

"Our experiments show that planting speed doesn't appear to have any noticeable effect on test results," says Wells, who notes that the calculator is designed to work with most makes of grain drills. "If your drill isn't compatible with our drill-rate calculator, we can probably custom-make one that will work."

The soybean and wheat calculators each sell for \$20 plus \$3 for shipping and handling.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Gauge, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 181, Sharpshville, Ind. 46068 (ph 317 883-7700).



"Bird Flusher" Keeps Wildlife Safe

"We live near a game refuge so we have a lot of game birds and other wildlife in our hay fields. This is an idea I came up with to help save them when mowing," says Mark Kenan, Rippey, Iowa, about the "bird flusher" he mounted on the front of his mowing tractor.

A 2 by 4-in. board bolts across the front of the tractor. It's less than the width of the rear tractor tires. Then he attached a wood 2 by 2 to the end of the 2 by 4 with two bolts. It extends out the width of the rear-mounted sickle mower. Five plastic

milk jugs hang from the 2 by 2, dangling on baling wire. Several ball bearings inside each jug rattle around, making enough noise to make game animals flee the area. Jugs are spaced about 2 ft. apart.

"When going through a gate or down the road, you just remove one of the bolts on the 2 by 2 and fold it up in the air," says Kenan, who says he couldn't find anything like his flusher on the market.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark E. Kenan, Rt. 1, Box 107, Rippey, Iowa 50235.