Water is pumped from two 250-gal. saddle tanks to a manifold on top of planter that splits the flow eight ways, one tube going to each row unit.

HE FITTED KINZE PLANTER WITH WATER INJECTION SYSTEM

Australian "Jump Starts" Crops By Adding Water

An Australian farmer who didn't want to take a chance on germination built a water injection system for his 8-row Kinze planter.

Glen Hamblin, who raises corn, cotton and wheat near Pilliga in New South Wales, uses the system to apply a minimum of about 50 gal. of water per acre whenever he's not sure if the soil contains enough moisture to germinate the seed. Sometimes he adds fertilzer to the water.

The trick with water injection is to get water in direct contact with the seed. Hamblin built a distribution system that releases a continuous trickle immediately behind the end of the seeding tube. "Seeds planted into moisture get started much faster," he says.

Hamblin mounts two 250-gal. saddle tanks on his Deere 4850 tractor. Water is pumped from the tanks through a filter and into a manifold on top of the planter that splits the flow eight ways, a tube going to each row unit. The nozzles that control the flow are located at the manifold, releasing a gentle trickle of water down a low pressure tube and into the seed furrow. Having the jets on top makes it easy to clear them if they get blocked. Hamblin also uses water injection to apply low rates of starter fertilizer and minerals.

Water drops from low pressure tubes directly onto seed in furrow.

Hamblin says he can get by with his low application rate of 50 gal. per acre because he drops the water directly onto the seed. Last spring he used the water injection system on about one-third of his crop acreage.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen Hamblin, "Riverway", Pilliga, N.S.W. 2389 (ph 067-964301).

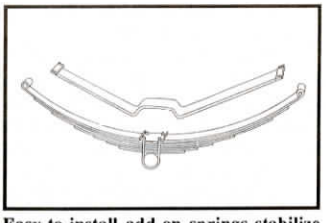
Story and photos reprinted with permission from The Land Magazine.

Overload Springs For Pickups, Vans, RV's

New from Jones Sales, Yuma, Colo., are bolt-on front and rear overload springs for pickups, motor homes, vans, recreational vehicles and suburbans.

Designed to absorb up 2,500 lbs., the springs fit 2-1/2 in. or 3 in. wide factory springs. "They help stabilize and level the load, and help prevent bending or cracking of the vehicle's original springs," the manufacturer points out.

To install, simply park the vehicle on a flat surface, then raise the body and frame approximately 6 in., or until the original springs are arched as much as the overload springs. Place the overload springs on top of the original springs and secure them with U-bolts. You can easily move the "overloads" from one vehicle to another.



Easy-to-install add-on springs stabilize loads and boost carrying capacity.

Narrow overload springs (2-1/2 in. wide) sell for $175 per set of two, and wide springs (3 in. wide) for $185.

For more information, contact: Jones Sales, 305 N. Albany, Yuma, Colo. 80759 (ph 303 848-5701).

HAND-HELD TRANSMITTER LETS YOU RAISE, LOWER HOIST, TAILGATE FROM ANYWHERE

Unload Grain Trucks By Remote Control

A first-of-its-kind radio controlled grain truck unloading system from Cancade Co., Brandon, Manitoba, lets you raise and lower your truck's hoist and hydraulic-equipped tailgate by simply pushing a button on a hand-held transmitter.

The "Smart Box" system can also be used to start and stop any auger, including drill fill augers, and to automatically roll up truck tarps.

"It makes filling bins or railroad hopper cars a one-man operation because you can raise and lower the truck box, as well as the tail gate, right from the top of your bin or hopper car or from inside your truck cab," says Ralph Redfern, company representative. "Our system eliminates the need to scramble down ladders to shut off the flow of grain and lets you avoid grain dust and dangerous augers and pto shafts. By fitting the truck tailgate with a hydraulic cylinder, it can be opened just the exact amount you need. A control console inside the cab shows you if the tailgate is up or down so you won't accidently drive away with the tailgate open. The system can be used to operate any hydraulic motor, valve, or electric switch. If you lose the remote transmitter or the battery inside it goes dead, you can still operate the system by using the control console which is powered by the truck's battery."

The hand-held transmitter sends radio signals to the control console in the cab. Either unit can be used to control operations. The console is equipped with "up" and "down" switches and LED lights that show which equipment is in use. The console is wired to electric solenoids mounted in hydraulic lines.

"Smart Box" mounts on dash. Remote transmitter can be carried in pocket.

The system is available as a two-function unit that operates a hoist and truck tailgate, or a three-function unit that operates a hoist, tailgate, and auger or tarp. Kit comes with everything needed for installation including hydraulic cylinder, hoses, and solenoid valves and fittings. A two-function unit sells for $2,924 and a three-function unit sells for $3,105.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cancade Co., Box 698, 1651 12th St., Brandon, Manitoba Canada R7A 5Z2 (ph 204 728-4450).

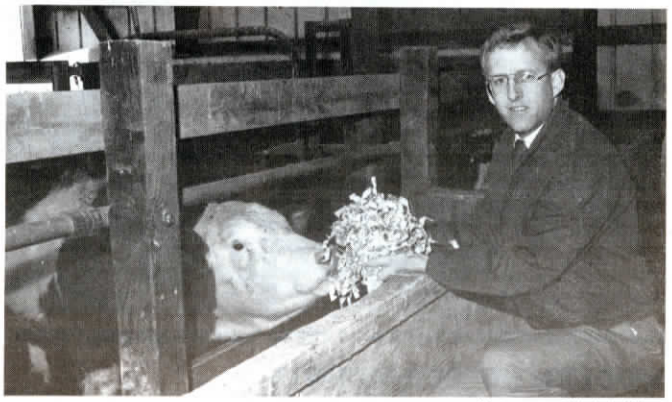


Photo courtesy Illinois Agri-News

Larry Berger feeds newspapers printed with soy ink to beef cattle.

Newspapers Make Great Cattle Feed?

Shredded newspaper treated with chemicals that break down paper fiber is the latest new ingredient in cattle rations.

University of Illinois animal scientist Larry Berger recently started a research project that may be the ultimate recycling plan. Newspaper fiber is broken down with a solution of hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide, "predigesting" it so bacteria in the rumen can break it down the rest of the way. Berger says chemical treatment is key to success of the project. Previous research in the 1970's fed untreated paper to animals but only about 20 percent of the newsprint was digested (compared to 60 percent for hay).

He plans to use papers printed with soybean oil-based inks and will avoid colored, glossy pages which contain potentially toxic elements.

Berger notes that in most areas of the country newspapers are available dirt cheap while in other areas farmers might even get paid to haul them away due to the rapid rise in landfill costs.