

"The Best Farm Accident I Ever Had"

What began as an honest mistake turned into a "best accidental idea" for Lockney, Texas, farmer and custom harvester G.L. Hight.

"Down corn was a real problem for one of my neighbors this year," says Hight. "There probably wasn't more than one stalk standing every 4 or 5 ft., especially on the outside rows."

In a hurry to get to work combining his neighbor's 500 acres of corn, Hight made a mistake changing gathering chains on the IH header he mounts on his L-2 Gleaner combine.

"I accidentally put one of the chains on backwards - I'd never done that before in my life - and when I got to the field I noticed how clean one row stayed," explains Hight. "The down corn was feeding smoothly in on that snout without plugging or leaving big wads of crop material in the field."

"After I discovered what I'd done, I reversed the rest of the chains. I thought it was just amazing that something so simple worked so slick. It's a cheap and easy way to handle a bad problem."

Hight says the trick should work on any make combine, but should be used only in certain situations.

"I wouldn't recommend it for anything less than 50 or 60% down corn because your chains get real aggressive and can grab ears and run them back under the header," he says. "Plus, it's hard on your chains."

He recommends that you try reversing the gathering chain on one row of your header first. "If it works, go ahead and swap them all out," Hight says.

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Skip Row Corn Head For 20-In. Corn

By C.F. Marley

In an effort to standardize their corn and soybean equipment, Illinois farmers Charles and Robert Mueller built an 8-row skip row corn head to harvest corn in 20-in. rows.

They knew that switching their corn over to 20-in. rows to match their beans would mean setting up a new planter and cultivator for the skip row pattern they chose. But building a corn head to handle their unusual row pattern turned out to be their biggest challenge.

They started with a 6-row 30 in. New Holland head and removed the snouts, moving the row units as close together as possible. Then they added two more units. Then they reshaped the snouts to remount them, leaving the center 30-in. snout intact.

The Muellers have two years experience with 20-in. corn and beans and say they plan to stick with it. They haven't changed plant populations at all in corn but say they may increase plants per acre a bit next year. They say corn stands better in narrow rows, making it easier to harvest.

The reason they needed a skip row was so they could get in and cultivate during the growing season. They farm Mississippi riverbottom land which is infested with viny-type weeds that they can control only with cultivation.

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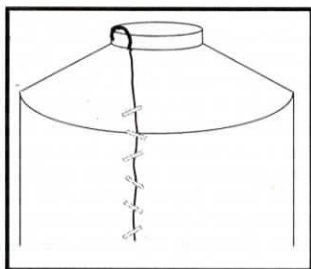
Safety Ladder For Grain Bins

"I hope I never have to use it but if I do, I'm sure it would work," says Robert Calhan, Ottawa, Ill., about his idea for a safety ladder for grain bins.

"Use a chain strong enough to hold a big man and put a secure hook on one end. The chain should be long enough to reach from the top of the bin to the bottom. Put 6-in. squares of plywood with holes in the center along the length of the chain. Put cotter pins through the chain below each piece of plywood to hold them in place.

"Before unloading a bin, just hook the chain to the top of the bin and throw the chain in. It'll find its way to the bottom and be there if needed."

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ert Calhan, 1324 W. Lafayette St., Ottawa, Ill. 61350.



Custom-Built Planter Shed

"It fits my planters perfectly and there's no wasted space," says Buzz Steele of his custom-built shed that houses his two planters.

Steele, of Brownfield, Texas, built the shed about three years ago because he didn't like the fact that his planters took up so much floor space in his machine shed, and left the space above them useless.

He constructed the 6-ft. high, 20 by 30-ft. shed in a couple of days. He made the frame out of 2 3/8-in. metal tubing and covered it with sheet metal. It has walls on either end and two doors on the sides. Planters can be backed in from either side.

Steele estimates he spent less than \$600



on the shed.

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Controlled Traffic Cuts Compaction, Lets Them Get Out In Any Weather

Nate Andre farms 850 acres of corn and soybeans near Wauseon, Ohio. He's a believer in controlled traffic, setting up wheel widths so equipment always runs in the same tracks.

All equipment on the Andre farm - tractors, combine, grain cart, planter, cultivator and rotary hoe - has wheels spaced at 120 in. so everything moves in the same tracks. Because they use longer axles with no duals, the Andres worked with tire com-

panies and university specialists to make sure their single radial tires could take the loads.

Andre says controlled traffic cuts compaction by 85 percent and has the added benefit of making it possible to get into fields in any kind of weather because the wheel tracks are always solid. (Ridge-Till Hotline, P.O. Box 624, Brookfield, Wis. 53008)

Repair Hoof Cracks With Glue

"We often repair cracks or chips in horse's hooves with glue. The idea would work on other livestock, too," says Heather Smith Thomas, Salmon, Idaho.

"Toe cracks, quarter cracks and heel cracks start in the hoof wall - usually from a chip or split - and travel upward. Horses with serious cracks must be trimmed frequently to relieve pressure on the crack and keep it from splitting farther. It's often difficult to 'grow out' a bad crack because it's nearly impossible to take all the pressure off to keep the crack from spreading. The horse may need to be shod in order to grow out the crack.

"We've found that small cracks can be stopped with a strong, fast-drying epoxy-type glue that holds the cracked area together and fills the space while protecting the sensitive tissues underneath. A veterinarian can recommend the best type of glue - a non-toxic one that won't create too much



heat while setting up.

"Even with glue or plastic filler, the foot must still be trimmed often until the crack grows out and the glue may have to be re-applied several times."

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