

He Plants Walnut Trees For Future Generations

Clarence Hoelsing, Hartington, Neb., says he hopes his grandchildren and great grandchildren remember him when they harvest the 5,000 walnut trees he's planted on about 20 acres of his farm. If harvested today, the trees could bring in as much as \$1,500 to \$5,000 each.

Hoelsing started planting the trees 8 years ago. The largest trees are now about 5 in. in dia. It will be 40 to 50 years before the trees are ready to be harvested as straight veneer logs.

Walnut tree seedlings sell for about 30 cents apiece. Hoelsing buys them from the Nebraska State forestry department. Forestry officials give planting advice and come out each year to monitor progress of the trees, which are planted on some of the best ground on Hoelsing's farm. He's lost about a third of the original 7,500 trees planted but says that due to the lessons he's learned in 8 years of planting, recent failure rates are down in the 5% range.

"They're susceptible to disease, worms, hail, beavers, frost and just about anything else you can name. They also require yearly trimming. To be most valuable they must have a straight trunk.

My trees are branch-free up to 8 ft. but you can trim them right up to 15 or 20 ft. with the right equipment," says Hoelsing. He also cultivates yearly around the trees. Because the trees are so sensitive he says he can't use weed killer around them. At 8 to 10 years the

trees begin to produce nuts, which can be harvested and sold.

Hammons Products Co., Stockton, Mo., is the country's leading processor of black walnuts. The company already sells 22 million pounds of nuts annually and they're looking to increase production with new growers. According to company vice president Jim Jones, walnut trees make a good alternative to traditional crops.

"You can plant them on odd corners of land or they can be planted in rows on good crop ground with corn, soybeans, or other crops interplanted between them until the trees mature. Trees should be planted 10 ft. apart in rows spaced 40 ft. Trees begin to yield nuts after 10 years. Each mature tree yields about 685 lbs. of nuts. Upon reaching maturity straight veneer trees often sell for as high as \$5,000 and an occasional outstanding tree sells for as high as \$20,000," says Jones.

Hammons Products helps farmers get started in walnuts by providing technical information. Jones recommends working with local ASCS offices, which often pay 65% of the cost of the trees, and U.S. Forest Service personnel who will help in site trees and sometimes even assist in planting.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hammons Products Co., 217 Hammons Drive, Stockton, Mo. 65785 (ph 417 276-5181).

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

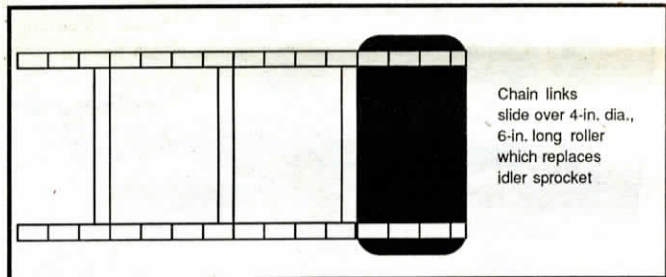
Bug-Free Fruit Trees

"Last year was the first year we had bug-free fruit that tasted the way it should," says Josephine Richardson, Decatur, Ind., who came up with a "no bug" solution to fruit-eating insects.

"You need an empty 2-liter plastic soft drink bottle, a banana peel, sugar, vinegar and a piece of cord. First insert the banana peel into the plastic bottle and then combine a cup of sugar and a cup of strong vinegar in a separate container. Pour this mix into the soft drink bottle and fill it to within 2 in. of the top with water. Then tie the cord around the neck of the bottle, leaving it long enough to tie to a lower branch on the tree.

"Almost immediately fruit flies, black flies, bugs, worms and other insects start entering the bottle. They never get out again. Their attraction for the fermenting sugar, vinegar and banana peel is stronger than their attraction for fruit on the tree. Last year several bottles got filled right up to the top with dead insects. It's amazing how many different types of insects attack fruit. Because we don't have to spray our fruit, it tastes better and is better for baking and cooking."

Contact: J. Richardson, Decatur Hi-Way Airport, Rt. 5, Decatur, Ind. 46733.



Chain links slide over 4-in. dia., 6-in. long roller which replaces idler sprocket

Rollers Replace Manure Spreader Idler Sprockets

"I was tired of having liquid manure freeze up the idler sprockets on my manure spreaders when the weather got cold, causing the unloading chain to roll off the sprockets and break," says Gordon Van Alstine, Cherry Valley, N.Y., who came up with rollers to replace the sprockets.

"Even if the rollers freeze up, since they're round, the chain can still slide over them. I've put them on two of my spreaders and my neighbors have also used the idea," Van Alstine notes.

On his New Holland 327, he removed the two idler sprockets and replaced them

with 4-in. dia., 6-in. long rollers fashioned out of pipe. He welded a plate to the end of each roller and mounted them on the same shafts that the sprockets were on. This way, he can still adjust spreader chain tightness. On his Kasten spreader he ran the 4-in. dia. roller pipe across the width of the spreader and mounted the ends on self-centering bearings.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordon Van Alstine, Box 295, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320 (ph 607 264-3969).

Tractor Tire Weights, Radials

You can improve the ride and safety of your smaller tractor with truck tires and parts, according to a British Columbia farmer.

Ernest Ivany, Lister, put 750 by 16 radial truck tires, filled with 12 psi, on the front of his Massey Ferguson 245 tractor. He then attached a crown gear off the rear of a Kenworth truck to each of the front wheels.

"The wheels give a Cadillac ride. Un-

believable what a difference they make. You have to try it to believe it. Crown gears work great as front wheel weights and are an important safety factor. They should never have been discontinued by tractor manufacturers. All smaller tractors need them unless they have a bucket in front. The front wheel weights, as well as the truck radials, reduce undue wear on steering components," says Ivany.

New "Shockhalter" Tames Boss Cows And Bulls

"I saw the need for this after I'd brought a pregnant replacement cow into my herd. A couple of hostile cows bumped her around, causing her to lose her calf," says Ted Hieb, Kennewick, Wash., who's developed the "Shockhalter", a new way to keep "boss" cows or bulls from pushing around and possibly hurting smaller or new animals.

The Shockhalter gives the boss cow a harmless shock each time she butts another cow. The shocking mechanism consists of a 2-in. dia. air switch located on the animal's forehead. When the cow butts another animal, the air switch is pushed in, producing an electrical shock through two metal contacts—similar to those on conventional cattle prods—located just behind the animal's ears. Electricity for the shock is provided by two flashlight batteries located in a tube on the side of the halter. The Shockhalter is water-sealed to work in rain and snow.

Hieb is doing experimental work on the Shockhalter. He feels that it won't cause health or mastitis problems as the



shock is less than that from an electric fence or cattle prod. Hieb hopes to have the Shockhalter on the market shortly for under \$100.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted Hieb, 3611 W. 15th, Kennewick, Wash. 99337 (ph 509-735-9778).