



### “Flat Fold” Markers For Deere Planters, Drills

After three years of heavy use, Gerard Howard of Goderich, Ontario, says he's pleased with the “flat fold” markers he made to mount on both his Deere Max-Emerge planter and Great Plains drill.

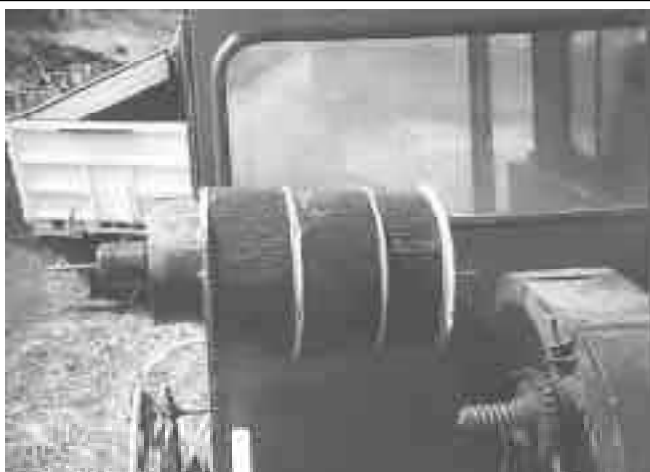
“One cylinder on each side folds them out automatically, controlled by a sequencing valve. There's breakaway protection and greasable hinge points. I fitted them with an 18-in. notched blade and a depth band so they make a mark that's easily visible, even in heavy trash,” says Howard.

Made from heavy gauge square tubing, Howard says he's been so happy with the

performance of his markers that he's started building them for sale. “They mount on most drills, including the Deere 750, and fit Deere row crop planters. We make them in 15 and 20-ft. models. They come complete with sequence valve, cylinders and hoses.”

A set of 15-ft. markers sells for \$1,500 (Canadian). A set of 20-ft. markers sells for \$1,600 (Canadian).

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### “Pressurizer” For Combine Cabs

If you get a lot of dust and dirt in your combine cab during harvest, you may want to take a look at how one Manitoba farmer solved the problem.

“Our cab was always dusty and hot so we decided to try to bring in fresh air. We mounted a truck heater blower on the upper back corner of the cab, fitting it to a hole cut in the side of the cab. Then we bolted three large air cleaners end-to-end on the intake side of the blower, closing off the open end of the filters.

“The fan brings clean air into the cab and pressurizes the cab which keeps dust out. Works very well.”

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### “Quick & Easy” Chicken Plucker

“It gives you ‘squeaky clean’ birds as fast as commercial machines but without the big price,” says David Schafer about a home-built chicken plucker built by his friend Ernie Kauffman.

“Commercial chicken pluckers clean 500 to 1,000 birds per hour and cost \$3,000 to \$7,000,” says Schafer, who range-raises chickens, beef, lamb and pork near Trenton, Mo. “Ernie's does up to 540 birds an hour - right in the ballpark with the big boys - but it cost less than \$300 to build.”

Kauffman based his design on commercial rigs which typically use a stationary stainless steel cylinder fitted with 4 to 5-in. long rubber fingers in the sides and a rotating stainless steel plate at the bottom of the cylinder. Feathers fall out of a 1-in. gap between the bottom of the cylinder and top of the plate.

He cut off a 2-ft. section of a 55-gal. plastic drum and used one of the 2-ft. sections as the stationary cylinder, sticking rubber fingers through the sides. The drum mounts in a frame made out of 2 by 2's that holds it about 1 in. above a spinning metal disc.

Kauffman's plucker is powered with an old Briggs and Stratton 3 hp mower engine.

The trickiest part of the project was getting the plate to rotate in an ideal range of from 150 to 300 rpm's, enough to clean chickens thoroughly without turning them into cream of chicken soup, Schafer says. That was achieved by attaching a pulley 15 times the dia. of the pulley on the lawn mower engine to the bottom of the plate. A big belt powers the pulley.

To engage and disengage the belt, Kauffman mounted the engine on a wooden platform that travels backward and forward

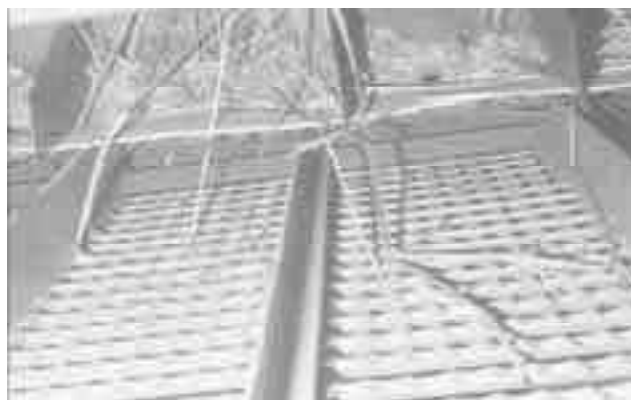


about 2 in. That's done with a hand lever and arm on the side of the engine platform.

To use the plucker, Kauffman starts the engine, engages the drivebelt, and drops in the scalded birds for about 15 seconds, spraying them with cold water.

Kauffman's chicken plucker handles three birds at a time. “It gives you as much capacity as you'd ever need on any farm or cooperative poultry operation,” Schafer says. “It's very, very unique. Somebody ought to develop it.”

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### Combine Chaffer Finger Bar Flap

If you've ever had problems with cornstalk pieces getting stuck in your combine's sieves and chaffer, you'll be interested in this modification made by Iowa farmer Rick Mabeus.

“When cigar-shaped stalk pieces get stuck in the sieves on my Deere combine, I can't adjust the sieves or chaffer anymore without taking a chance of bending the fingers on them. I've talked to enough other farmers to know this is a common problem,” says Mabeus, who modified his combine with what he calls a “finger bar flap”.

“All you need is a piece of thin, durable plastic (I used plastic cut out of an old shower stall). Thin sheet metal would also

probably work. Simply remove the chaffer finger bar from the machine. Once removed, mark the bolt holes onto plastic. Then simply cut to fit. The length should be about half the length of the fingers, leaving the rest of the fingers exposed as before. Then just remount the chaffer finger bar with the plastic on top of the fingers.

“I no longer have to worry about damaging sieves when adjusting them. I also no longer have to climb into the back of the combine to clean them out.”

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