



Strip Cropping Corn, Beans Boosts Yields

Richard Hagen's sold on strip-cropping corn and soybeans, based on four years' experience on his Olivia, Minn., 80 acre hobby farm.

He plants corn and soybeans in alternate 8-row strips (30 in. rows) running north and south. The idea: To expose tall-growing corn to more sunlight by alternating it with rows of low-growing soybeans.

Last fall on Sept. 30, using a test plot harvester, Hagen harvested the corn strips one row at a time to accurately measure how individual rows compared yieldwise. He harvested the rows, just short of a half mile long, in pairs, taking the two outside rows (1 and 8) on the first round, rows 2 and 7 on the next round, 3 and 6 on the next, and the middle two rows (4 and 5) on the last round.

Hagen discovered that outside corn rows out-yielded inside center rows by nearly 30 bu./A.

With 95 day corn (Keltgen KS95) planted at 30,000 plants per acre, actual yields were 197.1 bu./A at 17.8% moisture and 57.3 lbs test weight for the two outside rows (1 and 8), versus 169.7 bu./A for the two center rows (4 and 5) which also produced wetter corn (18.6% moisture) and at a slightly lower (57 lbs.) test weight. Rows 2 and 7 averaged 177.3 bu./A, and rows 3 and 6 averaged 175.8 bu./A.

With 110 day corn (Keltgen KS1090),

yields were higher and, as with earlier-maturing corn, outside rows were the big producers, yielding 213.2 bu./A (23.1% moisture), compared to 183.5 bu./A (24.6% moisture) for the center two rows. Rows 2 and 7 yielded 213 bu./A and rows 3 and 6 averaged 199.1 bu.

Hagen notes that his stripped-cropped beans, harvested 8 rows at a time, yielded 51.2 bu./A. "This is probably about what I would have gotten with conventional planting. With stripping, you do it to boost corn yields without sacrificing bean yields," notes Hagen. "Judging from the size and number of pods, it appeared that the outside bean rows adjacent to corn may have yielded slightly less than the remaining rows because of greater competition for moisture from corn roots and shading."

Hagen plans to try an interesting follow-up "crop stripping" experiment next spring. He has his corn and beans custom planted on ridges with an 8-row Cyclo planter, owned by neighbor Randy Mertz. By plugging selected holes in the air drum, Mertz and Hagen aim to plant the outside corn rows (1 and 8) at 36,000 plants per acre to capitalize on their higher yield potential, and the remaining rows at regular population (30,000).

Contact: Richard Hagen, Box 124, Olivia, Minn. 56277 (ph 612-523-1716).

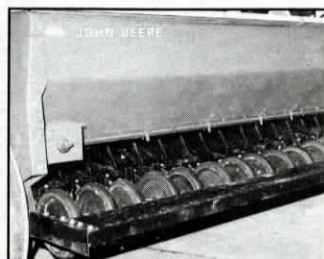
New "Indestructable" Boot For Hopper-Bottom Bins

"It won't crack or tear out, even in extremely cold winter temperatures," says Agri-Plastics of its "virtually indestructable" new and improved 16 in. boot for hopper-bottom feed bins.

"Our new parabolic boot is made from high-density polyethylene (HDP) plastic," says Rae Johnston, sales manager. "Compared to ABS plastic used in most competing boots, HDP possesses much greater strength, flexibility and tear-out or cracking resistance, even in areas where winter temperatures can drop to 30° or more below zero."

The new-style 16 in. dia. boot is available in a 30° model (for single bins) or in a straight-out model where two or more bins are connected in series by a single unloading auger. A slide gate located above the auger on either model meters feed output. A handy inspection clean-out plate on one side is easily removed with two wing nuts.

Agri-Plastics offers a heavy, one-piece 16 in. bolt-on collar, made from 14 ga.

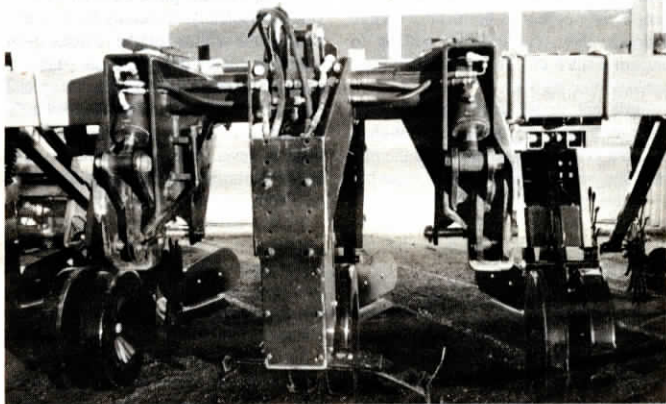


Boot is available in straight-out model (shown) for connecting two or more bins in series, or in a 30° drop model for single bins.

galvanized steel, for adapting the new "indestructable" boot to new or existing 45, 60 or 67° slope bins.

The new-style boot sells for \$150, including the bolt-on steel collar.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Plastics 64834 Co. Rd. 27, Goshen, Ind. 46526 (ph 219 533-0497).



New 3-pt. mounted system pivots the toolbar rather than shifting it back and forth.

MAKES IT "ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE" TO RUN OVER CROP

New Toolbar Pivot Keeps Cultivator, Planter On Row

Editor's Note: The following story was published in the last issue of FARM SHOW. Unfortunately, the name and address of the manufacturer was inadvertently deleted. Because of the many calls and letters we received, we decided to rerun the entire story.

"We think it's the best guidance system ever," says Lee Nikkel, manufacturer of a new 3-pt. mounted system that pivots the toolbar rather than shifting it back and forth.

"There's no comparison between this system and systems that try to shift the implement sideways. This leads the cultivator or planter where it needs to go while other systems try to force it over. It's almost impossible to accidentally take out corn plants while cultivating with this system in place," says Nikkel of Sunco Mfg.

The all-hydraulic system simply plugs into the tractor hydraulics with two hoses. There's no monitor or other electronics involved. Two wire "feelers" sense the crop - it should be at least 4 to 5 in. tall - and angle the toolbar back and forth as needed to stay

on the row. The total amount of movement of the pivoting hitch is 2 in. forward and back on each side for a total movement of 4 in. Nikkel says that's more than enough to stay on the row no matter how inexperienced the tractor driver.

"You can use it with a planter by positioning the feelers so they follow the planter marker furrow. Works great to plant on ridges," says Nikkel, noting that the self-contained system becomes an integral part of the tractor quick-hitch, which allows it to be used with any planter or cultivator. The unit self-centers itself in the raised position. Can be easily changed from one tractor to another.

Nikkel and the farmer-inventor who came up with the idea for the hitch, Gene Schmidt, have used the guidance system for the past two seasons. Sells for right at \$3,500.

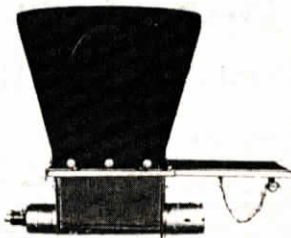
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sunco Marketing, P.O. Box 2036, North Platte, Neb. 69101 (ph 308 532-2146).

New Depth-Control Kit For Deere, IH Drills

"It turns press wheels into gauge wheels for precise depth control. Makes your drill plant better and easier to move from field to field," says MS Industries, Okarche, Okl., of its new "retrofit" kit for Deere 8000 and International 151 and 5100 series grain drills with double disc openers and trailing press wheels.

"The new kits are complete with all parts and instructions needed for the do-it-yourself changeover which provides 16 adjustments of 1/4 in. — a total of 4 in.," says Mike Schaefer, designer-manufacturer. "Original factory press wheels on both the Deere and IH drills we retrofit are cumbersome and awkward, plus they provide poor press action. Our changeover kit puts a firmer press on the existing press wheels to provide better crop stands in marginal moisture. The kit also allows your drill to plant a wider variety of seed — even grasses."

Schaefer notes that the kit is easy to



Deere drill shown equipped with new retrofit kit.

install and sells for \$29.95 per row.

If you are planning to buy a new Deere or IH drill, Schaefer says it may be possible to outfit the new drill with the depth control kits at little or no additional cost.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MS Industries, P.O. Box 544, Okarche, Okl. 73762 (ph 405 263-7909 or 4778).