



Neidlinger says he'll go most anywhere with his rig to custom clean tile lines.

"NEVER HAD A LINE WE COULDN'T UNPLUG"

"Unplugger" Machines For Clogged Drainage Tile

If you've been debating what to do with field drainage tile that's plugged up and no longer doing its job, you may want to check out a custom "unplugger", or a do-it-yourself "unplugger" machine.

FARM SHOW contacted three custom-operators who specialize in removing sand, dirt, crop roots, mineral deposits and other debris from plastic, clay or concrete field drainage tile.

"I've got more custom cleaning business than I can handle," says Frans Frijters, of Brunner, Ont., who for the past five years has been "unplugging" clogged drainage tile for area farmers with his Douven tile-cleaning machine, manufactured in Holland. He charges \$50 an hour to custom clean tile lines with his 3-pt. tractor-mounted machine which drives off the tractor's pto. He is also a sales representative for the Douven machine for North America. It sells for \$6,700 (Canadian dollars) and is the lowest priced tile-cleaning machine we know of for doing the job yourself. It'll clean out all types of lines — whether plastic, clay or concrete, up to 12 in. in diameter, says Frijters.

Key to the Douven machine's cleaning ability is a special spray head which has 13 jet nozzles — 12 shooting streams of water in reverse and one shooting out a forward stream. The forward jet stream loosens the sand, dirt, sediment or other obstructing material, and the reverse streams provide the propelling power to flush it out.

The spray head is attached to 1,000 ft. of 3/4 in. dia. hose wrapped around a large powered reel. A pto-driven piston pump moves clean flushing water under about 900 lbs. pressure at the rate of 29 gals. per min. Hose is gradually fed into the tile line with a belt-driven, push-pull device which an operator controls with a hand-operated lever.

"If the plugging problem is due largely to sediment buildup, it may take only a few minutes to flush out each 1,000 ft. of tile. If it's plugged

solid, it can take a lot longer. I've never encountered a tile I couldn't get unplugged, but some jobs have been a real challenge. I remember one where an 8 in. line was plugged solid with manure and dirt runoff from a feedlot. Took me 8 hrs. to go 1,300 ft. but I got it unplugged," he told FARM SHOW.

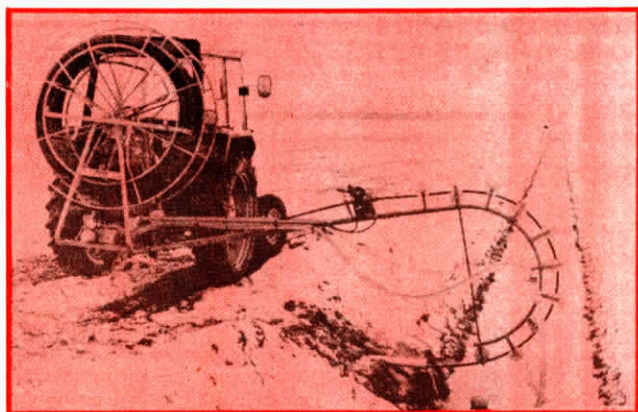
The usual procedure for flushing out tile lines is to feed the full 1,000 ft. length of hose into one end of the line, then reset the machine and dig down enough to reinsert the hose for each additional 1,000 ft. "bite" until the line has been completely cleared. A tank of clean water has to be hauled to the site for flushing if no canal or other water source is available.

For more information on the Douven machine (don't call or write Frijters about doing custom work since, he says, he's not able to handle any more than the calls he gets from his own community), contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Douven Tile Cleaner, Frans Frijters, Brunner, Ont., Canada N0K 1C0 (ph 519 595-8232).

In Indiana, Don Neidlinger, of Culver, custom cleans field drainage tile with a large machine manufactured by the F. C. Myers Co., Ashland, Ohio.

"I started out with a small foreign-made machine driven off a tractor pto. But I found it was too small and too limited for doing custom work," he told FARM SHOW. "My Myers machine operates on 1,600 lbs. pressure and flushes at the rate of 68 gals. per minute. We use 1,200 ft. of hose and bring it out one-third as fast as it goes in to completely flush the line under pressure."

Neidlinger says he'll go "most anywhere" with his portable rig if enough custom jobs can be lined up in an area to justify the travel expense. His going rate for flushing field drainage tile is 10 cents per running foot. Dirt or sand buildup usually isn't any problem to remove. Buildups of iron bacteria and mineral deposits can be stubborn if they've been building up over a long period of time. If a section of tile line has



The Douven machine's lower price makes it attractive to do-it-yourselfers.



Neidlinger's machine features a spray head with 13 nozzles. One shoots forward loosening material, the others flush it backwards and also loosen stubborn material.

collapsed or flipped out of position, his hose is measured so he can pinpoint the exact spot to dig down to find the problem.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Neidlinger Drainage Inc., Don Neidlinger, President, Rt. 2, Culver, Ind. 46511 (ph 219 842-3249).

One of California's veteran custom tile cleaners of field drainage tile is Alton Hoyt and Sons, of Holtville. The going rate in their area is 18 cents per foot. He and his three sons have developed their own water jet heads for flushing dirt, sand, sediment and other debris with an FMC machine, manufactured by the FMC Corp., Jonesboro, Ark.

"We clean 800 ft., then reset with a 50 ft. overlap to make sure the clean-out is complete," says Alton.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A. E. "Alton" Hoyt and Sons, 2198 E. Hartshorn, Holtville, Cal. 92250 (ph 619 356-1873).

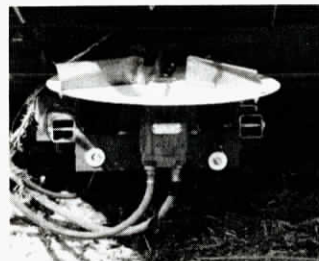
SPREADS OUT MATERIAL THE STRAW SPREADER MISSES

Chaff Spreader For Combines

"It prevents the matted chaff buildup that can interfere with followup tillage, especially if you're into minimum or no-till cropping," says Bernie Vittetoe of his company's new chaff spreader designed to fit most makes of combines.

"It mounts below the straw spreader to spread out chaff and fine material that otherwise collects in a narrow windrow behind the combine," Bernie points out. "It spreads chaff evenly the full width of the header and is especially needed when harvesting soybeans and small grain. Although not as essential, we leave it on and running when harvesting corn."

Removes in seconds by pulling two pins. Sells for \$788.



The 24-in. dia. circular spreader mounts below the straw spreader.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vittetoe Inc., Keota, Iowa 52248 (ph 515 636-2259).