



Shearer hydraulic disk plow pictured has 12 26-in. dia. disks spaced 12 in. apart. A prototype has 24 in. disks spaced 8 in. apart.

HYDRAULIC DISK PLOW

New Tillage Tool From Australia

"It combines the best of moldboard and chisel plowing, and has a few exclusive advantages of its own," says the manufacturer of an Australian disk plow that's ready to show its stuff to U.S. farmers.

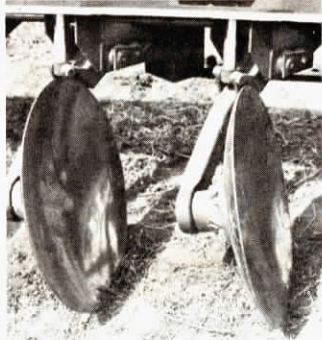
"We've had a prototype operating in Kansas and hope to have several operating in the Corn Belt this fall," Bruce Gray, sales manager for John Shearer Disk Plows, told FARM SHOW. "The tillage tool has caught on fast in Australia and we feel it has a lot to offer U.S. corn and small grain farmers."

Gray emphasizes that the new tillage tool is completely different in design and concept than the once-popular one-way plow. "This is an entirely different machine. The one-way had a common shaft running through the center of the disks and wasn't designed for trash penetration. On our disk plow, each disk has its own individual hydraulically operated suspension. There is uniform pressure on all disks, even when some are raised by uneven ground. This exclusive feature makes our disk plow especially suited for heavy trash, whether cornstalks, straw or stubble."

Gray notes that the operator of the Shearer hydraulic disk plow can match all types of plowing conditions by operating finger-tip hydraulic controls right from the driver's seat. Hydraulic loading of each individual disk allows the operator to vary pressure on the go. He can select the exact pressure required for soft or hard conditions, and for the amount of trash, to keep the plow operating at an ideal, constant depth.

In rough or stony areas, the disks and disk bearings are protected from damage. When a disk jumps a stone, pressure on a hydraulic jumper remains constant over the full range of jump height (by comparison, a spring loaded jumper builds up a much higher pressure).

The operator can adjust width of cut from 28 to 48" on the go. Hyd-



Uniform hydraulic pressure is maintained on every disk, even when some are raised by uneven ground. Disks adjust from 28 to 48".

raulic adjustment of the hinged tail beam enables the operator to readily establish the optimum width of cut for a particular plowing condition.

In Australia, Shearer offers models with up to 30 disks. Standard models have 26 in. dia. disks, 16 in. spacing between disks. Weight of the machines, which operate up to 12 in. deep, averages right at 750 lbs. per disk. Hitches are available for running up to three 30-disk machines in one hookup.

A prototype being demonstrated in the U.S. is equipped with 30 24-in. blades spaced 8 in. apart. "We're still exploring alternatives in designing models for use in the U.S. We hope to establish a licensing agreement whereby a domestic manufacturer will offer a custom designed hydraulic disk plow patterned after the Shearer design. It probably will have 24 in. disks spaced 8 to 12 in. apart, and be designed for operating at a depth of about 10 in.," says Gray.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Shearer Disk Plows, C/O Austin Beringer, Australian Trade Commission, 1 Illinois Center, 11 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.



Telescoping hitch features two sliding drawbars that swing freely back and forth. Can be used to pull two 4-row or two 6-row planters, or to pull a 4-row and 6-row planter together.

LETS YOU GANG SMALLER UNITS

Dual Planter Hitch Has Sliding Drawbar

"This hitch is for the farmer with a smaller planter who wants to expand his capacity without buying a big new planter. If you already have a 6-row planter, for example, you buy another one and hitch them together to make up a 12-row unit. They'll trail perfectly behind this hitch," says Dan Brobst, of his company's new Dual Planter Hitch. "The inside planter will drop about a foot behind the outside unit on a turn. You can turn around in your tracks and the two units will never come together."

The telescoping hitch features two sliding drawbars that swing freely back and forth, and slide forward up to 10 in., allowing one planter to "hold up" on sharp turns.

Although Brobst thinks it works best to stick within one line for the best results, you can, with some adjustments, combine most planter makes and models. The hitch can be used to pull two 4-row or two 6-row planters, or to pull a 4-row and 6-row planter together.

Other advantages of the hitch: If you have odd-shaped fields with corners that are impossible to reach with big planter units, you can hitch one planter to the dual hitch's center hitch, seed the corner, and then hook up the other planter to seed the open field.

If you have narrow bridges or other natural obstructions between fields, the hitch will let you pull smaller units through separately.

There have been problems with the hitch, explains Brobst. "With some

of these big planting units that not only plant but apply herbicide and fertilizer, the load became too much and the hitch broke on either side of the three-point hookup. The bar is 4 in. x 4 in. square steel tubing, so it took a tremendous amount of weight to break it. When the hitch is used just for planting (carrying seed but not fertilizer and herbicide), we haven't had problems. I always ask how the buyer will be using the hitch before he buys it."

Brobst says his company is putting new braces on the hitch to make it stronger for next year. The added strength will help for still another of the hitch's uses — pulling pairs of tandem discs, as farmers have been doing successfully in light soil. In heavier soils, says Brobst, the hitch may not be strong enough for two discs and buyers should be aware of this. But, for the right farmers in the right area, hitching up a pair of discs is a great convenience, he points out.

You can't make as sharp turns when pulling discs as sharp turns with planters. "The two discs tend to come together when turning and it's virtually impossible to keep those discs apart," says Brobst. "You just have to make big turns." He adds that the hitch can pull two disks of any make up to 12 ft. wide.

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