



Quackgrass Spray Rig

"With this set-up, we can spray quackgrass early in the spring before we can get on the ground with larger equipment," explains Kim Gearhart, of Edon, Ohio, about the sprayer outfit his uncle rigged up on a Scrambler all-terrain vehicle.

"Since we're on the field 2 or 3 days earlier than we can move with tillage equipment, we can get the quackgrass sprayed and still have plenty of time for Roundup to work before we till it under," Kim points out.

He and his uncle use the ATV sprayer to apply Roundup on small patches of quackgrass. Since it can be turned on and off as needed, the Gearharts can selectively spray only where there's quackgrass.

"At \$60 to \$70 a gallon, Roundup is just too expensive to spray over the entire field," Kim notes.

A 3-hp. gasoline engine drives a small pump on the sprayer. A used 30-gal. oil drum makes up the herbicide and water reservoir. An 8-ft. boom applies the herbicide. "The entire spray rig can be lifted off and put on a pickup, or stored away in seconds," Kim points out. "We covered a couple hundred acres with this rig last spring. But we only used about 20 acres worth of Roundup since we were able to spray selectively."

"Big Bale" Silage

When it gets too wet to put up good hay, LaVerne McDanel, a Florida cattleman, puts up his round bales as silage.

"I try to dry them down to 50% moisture, then roll them as tight as I can and placed end-to-end, seven to a row," he says. "I can cover this many with a 20 x 50 ft. sheet of 6 mil black plastic which I weight down and seal with dirt."

McDanel rolls up his silage bales with an Owatonna baler. "A New Holland baler also works, but I've tried other kinds and any models with rubber belts just won't handle the higher moisture hay," McDanel notes.

His tips for successful silage bales are as follows:

- Dry hay down to 45-50%.
- Roll the bale as tight as possible.
- Tie with plastic twine (sisal will rot).
- Make a size stack that cattle can eat in about a week.
- Cover with 6 mil black plas-



tic (white deteriorates in sunlight).

- Remove as much air as possible and weight down the edges.
- Feed out in 6-9 months.

McDanel used clear plastic bags at first but can't get them now. The black sheets are easy to get and cost about \$20 each. When he opens up a stack, his

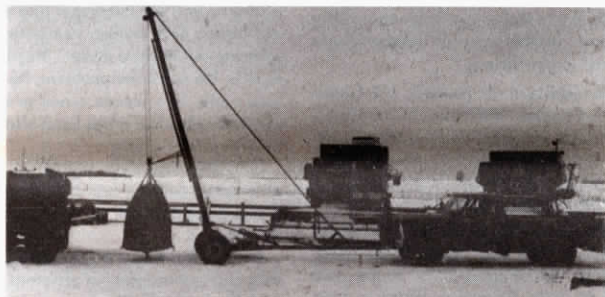
40 cows eat about one silage bale a day, cleaning up a stack before it gets a chance to spoil. "It's a way to salvage forage in wet weather without going to a lot of extra expense," he says.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rocking "L" Ranch, Rt. 3 Box 1421, St. Cloud, Fla. 32769 (ph 305 892-4461).

Portable A-Frame Lifter

"It's one of the handiest pieces of equipment I've ever built for use around the farm," says Larry Empey, Alberta, Can., of his A-frame lifter. It hitches to the front or back of his pickup for "go anywhere" lifting and loading of big bales, logs, bulk fertilizer bags, and anything else that needs to be lifted, loaded or stacked.

The "sky hook" stands slightly over 20 ft. high. Empey recommends using an 8,000 lb. battery-powered winch to do the lifting. The driver can raise or lower the winch "on the go" right from the cab of the truck as the load is being pushed, or



pulled. Although the lift can be pulled, it's much easier to control and maneuver if hooked to the front of the vehicle, says Empey. It folds down hydraulically for down-the-road transport at road speed.

The lifter is made of square steel tubing — 1/4 by 4 by 4 in. in the main frame, and 1/2 by 4 by 4 in. in the boom.

For more details, contact: Larry Empey, Box 83, Swallow, Alb., Canada (TOM 1YO).

Switch To Narrow Row Corn

If you've got narrow row soybeans but your corn is in standard 30 to 38-in. row widths, you know what a hassle and expense it is to keep two sets of planting and tillage equipment operating. To solve the problem, some farmers are beginning to put corn in narrow rows.

The biggest problem in "narrowing up" the rows is converting combine cornheads to narrow widths, says Bob Loverich, of Wyandotte Tractor and Implement in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, a John Deere dealership that has been rebuilding cornheads for farmers. Loverich recently finished converting his fourth cornhead from 30 to 20-in. rows and says it can be done relatively easily.

"John Deere made a 20 in.

narrow row cornhead up until a few years ago, and replacement parts for these units are available for use in converting existing cornheads," says Loverich. "So, in converting a Deere combine, you can either buy the tinwork and parts from Deere, or rework the existing parts."

Loverich says the most common demand so far has been to convert 8-row 30-in. heads to 12-row 20-in. heads. An 8-row head is not wide enough so he adds about 10 in. of frame to each end. The conversion consists of removing the 30 in. "tinwork" and sliding the row units, which are clamped to a bar, closer together and adding four additional units. Then, all are covered with 20-in. snouts

which are purchased new from Deere, taken from an old 20-in. header, or reworked from the old 30-in. material.

"If you have the 20-in. snouts from Deere, it takes about 5 hrs. a row to do the conversion. If you have to fashion the units out of tin yourself, it'll take longer," says Loverich.

Ruben and Albert Walton, a father and son who farm near Lima, Ohio, have raised narrow row corn since 1966. When narrow row cornheads were no longer available, they bought an 8-row Deere header and converted it to a 12-row, using row units from their old header. They say the only changes they've made are to avoid late season hybrids, because of the closer rows, and to lower the

population in the row. Yields are somewhat higher, they feel, but the big advantage is what they save in time and machinery in being able to plant both soybeans and corn in 20-in. rows with their Kinze planter.

Other advantages of narrow row corn include being able to slow down the gathering chains because of lower row populations, resulting in reduced field losses. And, the more evenly spaced plants may help you do better in downed corn — you can more easily cut across the field, or at a diagonal, without losing as much corn. Proponents caution, however, that rebuilding your header may void warranty, so check with your dealer.