

custom operators with Deere 9000 Series machines had complaints about the poor performance and frequent failures of their straw walkers or related bearings. Maybe Deere was trying to save money by putting five 12-in. wide straw walkers in their 9600's instead of staying with six 10-in. wide walkers like they had in the 8820's. Although both of these machines are basically 62 in. wide, they lost 20 percent of their side-to-side agitation and separation capacity by designing 2-in. wider walkers and using only five of them on the 9600 series.

In my opinion, straw walkers are not a very fast or aggressive separating technology for today's production needs, so making them wider and reducing the number used doesn't help matters. Especially since it seems that the wider walkers are heavier and cause more bearing failures. At least now there is one less walker and two less bearings to replace when they do fail. In this aspect, at least, rotary combines are simpler. I am a consultant working with the inventors of the new Bi-Rotor combine being built in Kansas and I feel this technology will provide the next increase in capacity and tough crop condition capability. (Alan VanNahmen, Consultant, Farm Buddy Company, Box 647, Columbus, Ind. 47202 ph 800 458-5481)

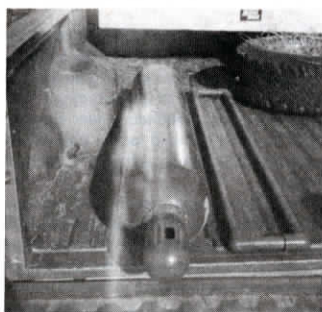
I'd like to comment on the article in the last issue about converting old fuel tanks into feed bunks by cutting them in half and mounting them on skids. This is a good idea, unless livestock should accidentally fall or get pushed into these round bottom tanks. If that happened, they would be lucky to get out because the main part of their body would be at the bottom of the tank with their feed on the rounded sides.

My suggestions, based on 55 years experience around cattle, is that adding a pipe rail and pipe dividers would prevent animals from falling in. (Tom Williams, HCR 1, Box 1A, Aurora, Mo. 65605 ph 417 678-3723)



I'm sending along a photo of our white "Poly Wood" rocking chair that's made from approximately 500 recycled plastic milk jugs that would otherwise have ended up in landfills. Extruded under high temperatures and extreme pressure into high quality, high density lumber, you won't believe the strength and beauty of this comfortable chair that weighs a hefty 40 lbs. It can't warp, rot, split, chip or peel like wood and the color goes right through it so it'll always look like new. It can't absorb moisture, gasoline or oils and is impervious to stains and mineral spirits. The only care it requires is a wash with soap and water. Sells for \$199.95. It's available in gray, tan or forest green for an additional \$20. (Davi's, 9329 South Packerton Rd., Claypool, Ind. 46510 ph 219 839-0082)

After years of trying to keep compressed gas tanks from rolling around in the back of my pickup, I finally got an idea for a simple device that keeps tanks from moving around yet doesn't slow me down at all. The tank holder consists simply of a 5-ft. long rectangular

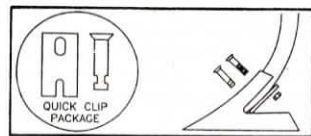


frame made out of Schedule 80 gray plastic pipe. The frame lies flat in the pickup bed and you simply set a tank on top of it.

I've used the idea for some time now and I've never had a cylinder roll out of it. One size works on many different size tanks. I've used mine on large and small cylinders and even large diameter propane tanks with no problem. The grooves in the pickup bed keep the frame from sliding from side to side although it will still slide forward if you come to a sudden stop. I tried using white PVC pipe but found that it shattered under the weight of the tank, so we stick with heavier Schedule 80 pipe.

I sell the tank holders for \$15 apiece. (Ray Benson, Benson's Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 94, Sterling, Neb. 68443 ph 402 866-2391)

Our new "Quick Clip" attachment for cultivator shovels eliminates wear on the bottom bolt and saves the frustration of always



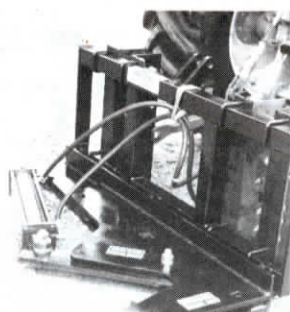
having to change shovels. The "Quick Clip" consists of a rectangular spring steel clip with a slot on one end and a slotted pin. The pin goes in the bottom hole of the cultivator shovel, replacing the original bolt. It allows faster installation and removal of cultivator shovels because there's only one bolt to remove. The clip follows the curve of the shank to keep pressure on the slotted pin so that it never comes loose. The clip and pin sell for \$2.95. (Damps Enterprises, Box 38, Mazenod, Sask., Canada S0H 2Y0 ph 306 354-7796)



If you've got a Ford New Holland mower/conditioner, you'll be interested in our new "rock remover" designed to keep rocks out of the conditioner rollers. It installs in minutes by simply removing the solid steel tray that mounts between the feeder auger and the conditioner rollers. It consists of a bracket fitted with steel tines that allows hay to pass over into the conditioner but lets rocks and other foreign material drop down through to the ground.

It lets rocks as big as bowling balls fall through. No more stopping to get rid of rocks bouncing around between the auger and conditioner and protects conditioner rollers from damage. (Rick Heintzman, Rt. 2, Box 265, Onaka, S. Dak. 57466 ph 605 447-5813 or 447-5821)

You can cut trees or branches up to 12 in. dia. with our new tree cutter that mounts on either a 3-pt. hitch or front-end loader. When mounted on a front-end loader, you can



either use it at ground level, or swivel it 90 degrees and use it high up in the air as a trimmer. A single 4-in. dia. cylinder with a 20-in. stroke provides cutting power. It activates a large steel blade that pushes through the tree trunk or branch into a slotted set of gripper teeth.

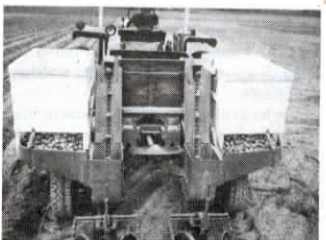
It's easy to hook up and can be used on tractors as small as 40 hp. We don't think there's any other land-clearing tool or tree trimmer on the market that is as easy to use or as trouble-free.

Sells for \$2,200. A fixed, horizontally-mounted model that doesn't pivot sells for \$1,795. (Easy-Cut, Inc., Box 162, Ravia, Okla. 73455 ph 405 371-2725 or 3606)

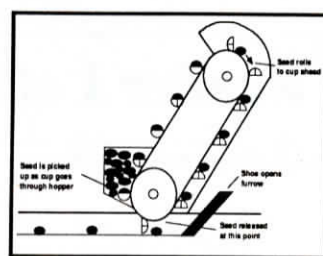


Straight blades for ATV's have been around for several years but, as far as we know, this is the first adjustable V-blade on the market to fit ATV's and garden tractors. The lightweight (120 lbs.) blade can be adjusted to 9 different positions including V forward, V backwards, straight across, and angled to either side. Total width is 50 in. Right and left sides of the blade attach to a hinged cowl at center and can be positioned by a single latch pin. A horizontal hinge pin behind the blade allows the blade to pivot forward if the bottom edge of the blade strikes an object. Four springs bring the blade back to its upright position after it's tripped. A manual lift handle mounted just ahead of the operator raises and lowers the blade.

We built three prototypes before coming up with this production model. It's ideal for moving snow and dirt and also works great in and around cattle yards. Sells for \$485. (Michael Segorski, American O.R.V. Products, Inc., 802 Clark Drive, Gladstone, Mich. 49837 ph 906 428-9299)



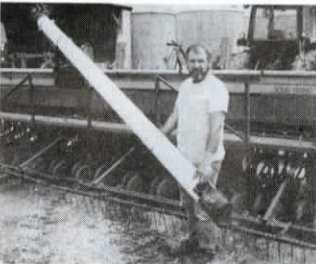
We think our home-built potato planter works better than any planter you can buy. We built it because we couldn't get the accuracy we wanted in commercially-built planters. We also saved a lot of money by making our own machine. We only raise about 50 acres of potatoes so we can't justify spending a lot on equipment. But we bag nearly all of our yield ourselves and sell direct to a local grocery chain so quality must outstanding.



Key to success of the planter is the system of seed cups which attach to a length of roller chain that rises up through a seed hopper, with each evenly-spaced seed cup picking up a seed potato as it passes through. The cups ride up an incline and then enter an enclosed elevator housing that fits tightly around the seed cups. As the seed cup starts down the back side of the elevator, the seed rolls out of the cup and onto the bottom of the cup ahead of it, which is now upside down. It then rides on the bottom of the cup to the bottom of the elevator, where it's dumped in the seed furrow as the cup makes the turn and heads back up into the seed hopper (see drawing).

The seed is controlled right down into the furrow, unlike other planters which drop the seed into the furrow giving it a chance to bounce around. By eliminating most skips, we've been able to greatly reduce weed problems because the solid crop canopy shades them out. A 250-lb. fertilizer hopper mounts between the two 300-lb. seed hoppers. Granular fertilizer is laid down on either side of the 34-in. spaced rows. The quick-tach, 3-pt. mounted planter is ground driven by the left rear wheel on the planter. We can change spacing in the row by changing a drive sprocket. Each row unit floats independently and there are a pair of covering discs behind each row unit to cover the furrow. A rider sits on a seat at center to make sure each seed cup picks up a seed to reduce skips.

We also "almost totally rebuilt" a potato harvester that works better than anything else I've seen. (Olaf E. Grimsbo, 1812 Harristown Rd., Grand Rapids, Minn. 55744 ph 218 326-2993)



I used a 6-in. PVC pipe to make a drill-fill auger that mounts on our soybean drill. Driven by an orbit motor powered by the tractor pulling the drill, the auger eliminated the need for the tractor we previously used to pto-drive an auger when filling seed boxes out of a gravity box. The auger attaches to a pivot point on the drill with a single pin. To fill the hopper, I can pick up the intake end of the auger with one hand and rotate it over to the gravity wagon.

To make the auger, I used fighting salvaged from an auger I used to fill bins. I made end caps for the auger in my shop, cutting a cap out of sheet metal and fitting it over the end of the auger. Between the cap and the end of the auger I fitted a circular piece of plate steel that's fitted with a bearing at center. I welded all components together to make a tight end cap.

The discharge end of the auger has a similar cap but I installed an orbit motor from a down corn reel on it to drive the auger. (David Drake, RR, Girard, Ill. 62640)

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