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MAKES IT EASY TO RATE PLANTER

"Space Wheel" Checks Seed Placement In Field

A new tool that checks the spacing between corn plants promises to help boost yields by making it easy to monitor planter performance.

The "Space Cadet" plant spacing calculator is a cross between an acre-measuring wheel and a computerized monitor. It has only two moving parts - a 12-in. dia. rubber wheel connected electronically to a distance calculator, and a wire "stem counter." As the unit is rolled alongside a row of corn, the wire counter clicks off each corn plant that it goes by. Distance, and the number and location of the "clicks", are recorded in a computer-driven monitor mounted on the handle.

"It helps you evaluate stands from a number of perspectives, including the accuracy of individual row units on the planter as well as accuracy of the entire planter," says Dan Easton, a crop consultant from Bagley, Iowa. "By consulting a table you can determine the percent yield loss that you can expect because of the variability. Information can be stored on up to 99 samples in the field. You can scroll through the samples and write the information down on paper or download it into a computer. You can also download into a pocket data logger on-the-go.

"You can use the monitor several times



The number and location of "clicks" are recorded in a computer-driven monitor mounted on handle.

throughout the growing season to pinpoint the reasons for stand variability. For example, it can be used when corn is just emerging, then after a cutworm or wireworm infestation, and again after cultivation.

"It lets me check many more fields per day than if I had to count them by hand. And by comparing stand data from all my clients I can check for consistencies by hybrids, planter type, planter attachments, etc."

Sells for \$695 (plus \$25 S&H).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Easton Goers, Inc., 2699 Hwy. 141, Bagley, Iowa 50026 (ph 515 427-5268).

Timer-Controlled "Rocket Feeder"

By Dianne L. Beetle

When Max and Eva Galbraith set out to design an automatic sow feeder four years ago, they had certain criteria in mind.

"It had to be durable because a large sow can destroy anything. It had to be reliable because it won't save you labor or money if it doesn't work. And it had to be simple to operate," says Eva.

The Roseville, Ill., farming couple's planning paid off when their sow feeder was named "Most Innovative" invention in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Farmer Idea Exchange earlier this year. The Galbraiths are now taking orders for their patent-pending feeder, which sells for \$2,250.

Key to success, Eva says, is that the feeder adds safety and convenience as

well as efficiency to hog-feeding operations.

Called the "Rocket Feeder" because of its shape, the sow feeder consists of a 40-bu. galvanized bin mounted on a 10 by 10-ft. portable platform. Triple-epoxy coated wood walls support the bin and form 16 individual feeding stalls arranged radially around the platform.

A digital timer automatically dispenses up to 15 lbs. of feed through chutes to the concrete troughs in each stall. (An override switch permits manual operation.) Troughs have plastic lids, and a beep notifies sows when feed is flowing.

A slide control adjusts rate of flow of feed to each trough. Feed can be dispensed in any amount or shut off completely. A solar panel powers a 12-volt DC battery, or the



Sticky-backed "no slip" tread strips adhere to any smooth surface, including combine headers. They come pre-cut with rounded corners, ready to apply.



PUT THEM ANYWHERE YOU COULD SLIP

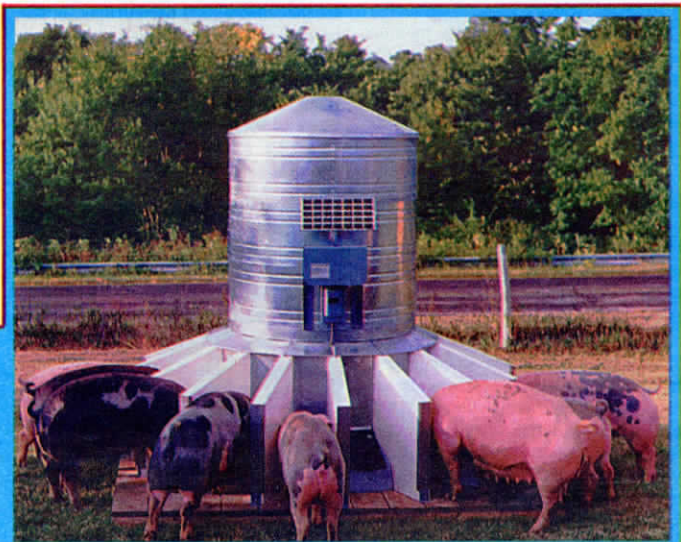
Tread Strips Stick To Slippery Surfaces

You can help prevent nasty falls with new sticky-backed "no slip" tread strips that'll adhere to any smooth surface.

"Safe Step" treads are sold in strips with an epoxy adhesive on back. "They come pre-cut with rounded corners, ready to apply. They work great on combine headers, pickup bumpers and running boards, wagon tongues, around spray tanks, etc.," says distributor Daryl Siders.

The tread strips are sold in two sizes - 3/4 in. wide by 24 in. long or 2 in. wide by 12 in. long. A pack of 24 3/4 by 24-in. treads sells for \$20 (plus \$3 S&H). The 2 by 12-in. treads are sold in packs of 25 at the same price.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fairhaven Farm Products, 1722 Jasper Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385 (ph 513 372-2238).



The 40-bu. galvanized bin is mounted on 10 by 10-ft. portable platform, with 16 individual feeding stalls arranged radially around the platform.

unit can be adapted for indoor use.

It also features a reversing mechanism that expels foreign objects if one gets lodged in the dispensing system.

The radial design of the feeding stalls keeps sows from fighting and stealing each other's feed, helping to reduce stress at feeding time, Eva notes.

Along with reducing waste, the feeder gives small farmers more management

time, she says. The Galbraiths say their feeder is safer than feeding sows by hand and much more energy efficient than feeding with a tractor and feed auger.

"The only requirement with our feeder is that you keep it full of feed," Eva says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Galbraith Industries, Rt. 1, Box 9A, Roseville, Ill. 61437 (ph 309 426-2492).