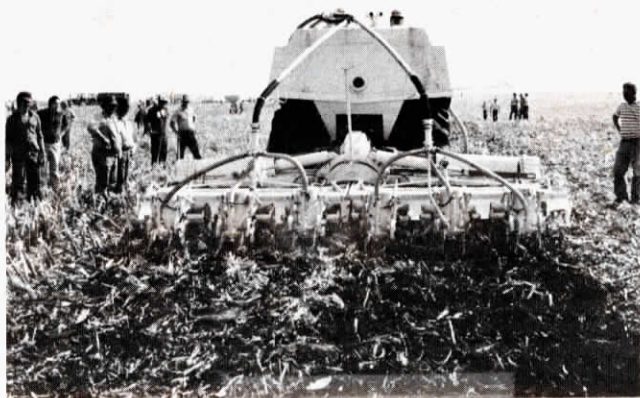




A 60 to 70 hp tractor pulls the Maxicultivator, which has its own 314 hp power unit.



Maxicultivator takes a 16 ft. swath.

## COMPLETE ONE-PASS PLANTING SYSTEM

By Lonnie Stauffer, Associate Editor

# New "Maxicultivator" Tills, Sprays, Plants

An Italian-designed machine unveiled at the recent Farm Progress Show in Illinois is claimed to offer "the first deep-tillage, one-pass planting system for planting nearly any type of crop."

The Cantone Maxicultivator is designed to do the primary tillage, apply fertilizer, spray herbicides and insecticides, incorporate the chemicals, smooth the seedbed, plant and pack the final soil cover — all in a once-over operation. It can deep till to 20½ in. in a 16-ft. swath. The machine folds hydraulically to 8 ft. 2 in. for road transport.

Powered by a 12-cyl., 314 hp. Deutz air-cooled diesel engine, the Maxicultivator is designed to operate at up to 6 mph, or about 5 acres per hour, according to the American marketer. Charles Long of Shelbyville, Ky. Long has tested a Maxicultivator on his own farm for two years.

A 60 to 70 hp. tractor is also needed to pull the machine, and to provide a pto power-assist in tough going. Tilling is provided by a 30¾-in. dia. roto-tiller. Dry fertilizer is applied pneumatically from the top-mounted hopper and incorporated by the tiller. A rolling harrow follows to smooth the soil ahead of the planter units. Either conventional or pneumatic planters are available.

For corn and soybeans, Long recommends the standard gravity flow planters. For small grains, he suggests the pneumatic model. A roller-packer follows the planters to ensure good soil to seed contact. Herbicides, insecticides and liquid fertilizer can be applied with a spray boom at any point in the process.

Long estimates germination can be improved 20% or more since the seed is incorporated tightly into the soil. He also figures up to 50% savings can be realized on fuel and labor costs with the Maxicultivator over conventional methods. It's designed to plant corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat and other small grains, beets, sunflowers, peas, edible beans and most small-seeded crops.

Price tag on the new monster machine is \$143,000, including the 314 hp engine that powers it. Long, who was quoting a "show special" price of \$123,000, noted that the one do-everything rig replaces "upwards of \$175,000 worth of equipment, including a 300 hp tractor, large disk, sprayer, planter, stalk chopper, moldboard or chisel plow, and five trips over the field".

Long adds that the machine was first introduced in Italy 10 years ago and that 470 machines have since been sold throughout Europe, China and other countries. The parent company in Italy makes a wide variety of agricultural equipment, including the leveling feature for International and Claas hillside combines, according to Long.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Casalee America Corp., 533 Main St., Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 (ph 502 633-5772).

### Farmers Evaluate the Maxicultivator

Here's what farmers who saw it working in cornstalks, both shredded and unshredded, at the recent Farm Progress Show in Illinois thought about the Maxicultivator:

"It really did the job in unshredded stalks," noted Walter Drake, of Terre Haute, Ind. "It didn't seem to choke up later in unshredded stalks, either."

Derwood Getting, Sheldon, Iowa, pointed out, "I don't think the average farmer would have the patience to wait around for it to work if it goes this slow." Charles Long, the American marketer, points out that the machine, which normally travels at 5 mph, was going slow because of the crowds around the machine, and because of the rain-soaked soil.

Darrel Tupy, of Cresco, Iowa, told FARM SHOW, "If the price won't kill you, it might work out in small acreages. It makes sense that, when a farmer finishes with this machine, he's all done planting, spraying, tilling and everything."

"Don't know if we have the chemicals for weed and insect control to go with it," questioned John and Greg Allen, Memphis, Ind. "It looks like it might work well on soybean ground, otherwise."

Damon Lacey, Middletown, Ohio, wasn't impressed with the planter units on the Maxicultivator! "If they decide to offer some up-to-date, highly accurate planter units, they might have something."

## Modification Kit For Fox Forage Harvesters

If you own a Fox forage harvester manufactured within the past 20 years, contact your Fox dealer. He may have an update kit for you.

Recently, Fox/Brady has taken out large ads in major farm magazines across the U.S. in an effort to reach as many owners as possible with the modification kit, designed to improve the feeding of corn into their machines. Without the kit, the machines are said to be more likely to plug under certain conditions and, as stated in the ad, "create a hazard" when farmers go to unplug them. This corn head modification eliminates the hazard," the ad states.

What prompted the company to advertise so widely what amounts to a recall of its product?

"The update kit has been available

for three years and the company decided to make one strong effort to find as many owners as possible," reports a company spokesman. "Machines have been sold and resold, owners have moved away and dealerships have changed. It's difficult to track down owners through company records."

The recent sale of Fox/Brady from the Koehring Corp. to Piper Industries, Inc., may also have had some bearing on the "recall" effort. However, since it is unusual for farm machinery manufacturers to make such a widespread notification of a major machinery modification, many have wondered if the update kit was part of a legal judgement against the company.

"I can state unequivocally that

there are no lawsuits pending that in any way affected our decision to offer this modification kit to customers," the spokesman told FARM SHOW. "While we don't feel that we ever had more problems with our machines than our competitors, we do feel our machines have a longer than usual working life and, since we still make parts available for just about every machine we ever made that still runs, our management decided to bring everything up to date."

You can install the modification kit yourself, or your dealer will do it for you. All current and recent year models are excluded. The models involved are: Models 2CA or 122 (Serial No. 1952 through 8855); 2CB or 215 (Serial No. 1001 through 7114); 3C or 263 (Serial No. 1001 through 2740); and 4C or 349 (Serial No. 1001 through 1102).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fox/Brady, P.O. Box 1279, Appleton, Wis. 54912 (ph 414 739-3631).