PROVIDES ACCURATE PICTURE OF EACH FIELD'S SOIL TYPES AND WEED PROBLEMS

First-Of-Its-Kind "Field Mapping" System

A first-of-its-kind field mapping system is an easy way to put together an accurate "computer" picture of your fields' soil types and weed problems, according to Agri-Logic Solution Systems, Brazil, Ind.

The system consists of software and a graphics tablet to input maps and can be used with any IBM-compatible computer. It allows you to quickly calculate total input requirements for each field and make good yield forecasts.

For accurate measurements to scale, the user specifies the known distance between two points on an aerial photo or ASCS soil map. The field boundaries, soil type lines or other information can then be traced with a "mouse" on the graphics tablet and will appear simultaneously on the computer screen. A zooming feature lets you zoom in on specific field areas as small as 1 sq. ft. The program also lets you "layer" different types of information on one map.

"Every input decision a crop farmer makes, and all expense and yield information, depends upon accurate acreage information," says Denny Bell, who came up with the new system. "It provides an accurate method to input this information into a computer, but more importantly it allows fast, precise measuring of any variable, including verification of total and partial field acreages. It allows you to quickly measure soil type acreages in a field or on a farm, and to forecast a projected yield to determine profitability. It also allows you to adjust planting populations and fertilizer applications according to the yield potential of the soil type. Weed problem areas can be measured and treated precisely rather than with a blanket application, saving costly chemical expense. Computer mapping also

Field boundaries, soil type lines and other information are traced on the graphics tablet and appear simultaneously on the computer screen.

lets you measure fields for government programs from the convenience of your office. Field acreages on many ASCS maps are off up to 20% due to encroachment of wooded areas and other mismeasurement factors. You can also measure these wooded areas for timber management or other uses."

According to Bell, the computer mapping system can even tell you how many rounds you will have to make with an implement on a particular field. For example, you can input your planter's width and it'll tell you the number of rounds needed to plant a particular hybrid on a particular soil type, in straight or contoured rows.

The package sells for $595.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Logic Solution Systems, RR 15, Box 351A, Brazil, In. 47834 (ph toll-free 800 444-8214; in Ind., 800 356-8214).

"It's got more stability, is easier to steer, and works better with a front-end loader," says Short about his modified tractor.

"MANY OTHER TRACTORS COULD BE WIDENED THIS WAY"

He Fitted His Tractor With A Combine Axle

"I worked at it for 6 months before I was 100% satisfied," says Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo., who converted his narrow-front 1942 Farmall "H" to a wide front-end using the rear steering axle from a Ford combine.

Short bought the combine axle from a Ford dealer who had removed the axle to equip the combine with a new power assist rear axle. He says rear axles off other combine models will also work to convert narrow-front tractors.

Short likes the way his converted tractor operates. "It's got more stability, is easier to steer, and works better with a front-end loader. The only drawbacks are that it doesn't turn as short and it takes up more storage space," says Short, noting that the Ford axle he used measures 54 in. from hub flange to hub flange.

Short built an angle iron mounting frame that bolts directly to the tractor frame. It extends the tractor frame forward in order to make room for attachment of a grill guard, a "suitcase" weight carrier, toolbox, front tractor hitch or a heavy-duty electric winch. The mounting frame pivots directly on the combine axle, which is arched upward at the center. "Since I was mounting what was a rear axle on the front of the tractor, I reversed the spindles. Because the axle was designed for the weight of a combine, there's no problem mounting it on a smaller tractor. A steering cylinder could easily be attached with a power steering pump to make steering easier," says Short.

He left the combine wheels on the axle because the bolt pattern varied from the 6-bolt pattern on the tractor wheels although he says he could have adapted the tractor wheels to fit by welding new center discs to the rims.

"Many other narrow-front tractors could be widened-up this way. The arched type rear axle we used seems to be the easiest to use but some straight-type rear combine axles that are controlled from under the steering pedestal could also be used," says Short, who plans to convert a second tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Short, Rt. 2, Box 230, Hamilton, Mo. 64644 (ph 816 583-2361).

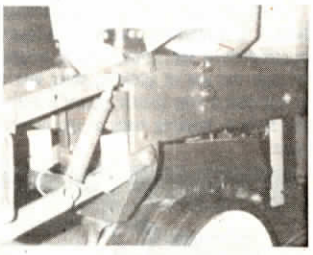
MAKES IT QUICK AND EASY TO BLOCK INDIVIDUAL ROW UNITS

Planter "Stop" Holds Units Out Of Ground

A new planter "stop" makes it easy to lift individual row units up out of the ground when you need to block off rows for narrow row beans, when planting delayed male or female seed corn rows, or whenever else you need to block a unit out of the ground. Works on Deere Max-Emerge, Kinze, and New Idea planters, including air and push-type models.

"Until we invented Maxi-Lifts, most people bolted a flat piece of strap iron between the parallel linkage on the planter. That's time-consuming because it's often difficult to line up bolt holes. To use Maxi-Lifts you simply pin the lift to an existing hole on the planter linkage, then lift the planter unit up and flip over the pivoting Maxi-Lift. It's quick, simple and easy to use," says farmer-inventor Jeff Bridgewater, who's sold more than 2,000 Maxi-Lifts by word of mouth advertising.

Bridgewater notes that when you don't need to block up the unit, Maxi-Lift folds down out of the way. Two Maxi-Lifts are required per row. They sell for $15 a pair.



Maxi-Lifts pin to an existing hole and simply flip up to hold row unit and flip back down out of the way to lower the unit again.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J & E Manufacturing, Box 170, Blairstown, Iowa 52209 (ph 319 454-6139 or 454-6548).

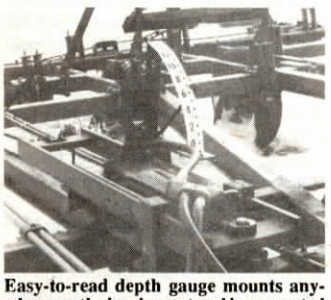
HELPS KEEP ANY IMPLEMENT AT A CONSTANT DEPTH

Low-Cost Depth Gauge

"My implement depth gauge can be mounted on almost any kind of tillage implement to keep it operating at a constant depth," says custom fabricator Dean Hodges, Joplin, Mt.

The spring-loaded gauge, shaped in a quarter circle, is connected by cable to the implement's hydraulic cylinder. The gauge is equipped with an indicator arm connected to the cable. As the cable moves back and forth with the hydraulic cylinder, it also moves the indicator arm. The indicator arm points to a scale on the gauge numbered from 0 to 14. The numbers indicate inches of tillage depth.

"This depth gauge works great on disks, field cultivators, plows and even earth scrapers. It's simple to use and reasonably priced," says Hodges. "The depth gauge is hooked up by cable to any part of the tillage implement where there's a hydraulic cylinder to control implement depth. It ensures a constant tillage depth when you turn on the ends of fields or change fields, and also when you change drivers. There's no guessing at where to set the hydraulic lever."



Easy-to-read depth gauge mounts anywhere on the implement and is connected to a depth control cylinder by cable.

Sells for $25.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Hodges, Box 133, Joplin, Mt. 59531 (ph 406 292-3580).