ACCURATELY BROADCASTS 2 BU. PER ACRE

3-Wheel Rig Seeds Soybeans Into Wheat

In an area where normal wheat harvest is in mid-July, it's difficult to get good results from a double crop of soybeans planted after harvest. That's the problem that faces Lawrence Mitchell, Peru, Ill., who first got around the problem by broadcasting beans into standing wheat by airplane.

Recently Mitchell came up with a new solution by fitting his home-built 3-wheel spray rig with an electric seeder so he can get double crop beans into wheat in late May or early June when it's still green. That gives him more time and a better shot at needed moisture.

"Seeding by plane worked but it was hard to calibrate the seed," says Mitchell. "We tried for 2 bu. per acre by plane. That's what we seed with this rig. We do a lot better job."

Mitchell has used the 3-wheel seeder for two years and likes the results. Because of the crop dividers on the wheels and the narrow tires, Mitchell says damage to the wheat crop is minimal. He can seed a 65-ft. swath per round. His best bean yield so far is 25 bu. per acre. He uses Basagran and Poast herbicides on the beans.

Mitchell built the 3-wheeler himself. It consists of a simple angle iron frame mounted on motorcycle wheels with chain-driven sprockets. It's powered by an 11-hp. Wisconsin, electric-start engine. It powers a Craftsman lawnmower rear end with high and low speeds, and a transmission with 4 forward speeds and 1 reverse. The axle shafts were extended out to a span of 60 in. Sprockets at the ends of the shafts are the same dia. as the sprockets on the wheels.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lawrence Mitchell, Peru, Ill. 46970 (ph 815 223-4281).

Electric broadcast seeder mounts on back of home-built 3-wheeler.

LOADS FROM OUTSIDE

Round Bale Feeder For Free-Stall Barns

A Pennsylvania farmer has designed a round bale feeder that lets you easily feed round bales inside free stall dairy barns without taking up a lot of space.

Jonas Stoltzfus, Loysville, Penn., says the 8-ft. wide feeder installs just inside the barn wall. The bottom end of the feeder rests on blocks. Cattle feed through double wall bars spaced 18 in. apart. The feeder is loaded with a front-end loader from outside the barn.

"Most dairy farmers feed round bales outside in the feedlot. That often wastes feed and animals can get hurt by the tractor when bringing in bales. Unrolling bales inside the barn is labor intensive. My feeder reduces labor as well as feed waste, and takes up just two free stall spaces. What's more, the double wall design of my feeder keeps cattle from dropping loose hay outside the feeder and trampling on it. Dropped hay falls into the 18-in. gap between walls, inside a skirt. One customer says my feeder reduced waste by 75 to 90%," says Stoltzfus.

The sides and bottom of the feeder are made from 1/4-in. steel plate, the slanted bars are made from 3/4-in. dia. steel pipe, and the horizontal pipes above them are made from 2 1/2-in. steel tubing. Sells for $750.

Feeder installs just inside barn wall. "Double wall" design of feeder prevents waste.

Stoltzfus makes five other bale feeder models for different types of barns, and for outside feeding.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jonas Stoltzfus, RD 1, Box 196, Loysville, Penn. 17047 (ph 717 536-3618).

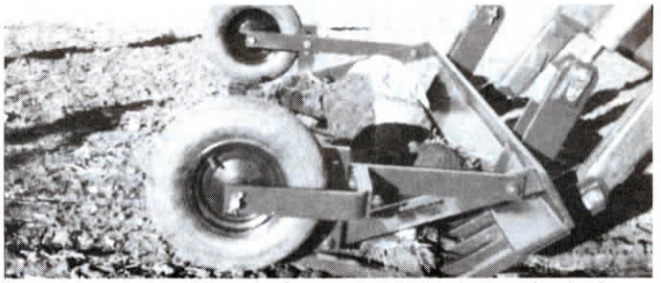
Stone Picker For Front-End Loaders

New loader-mounted stone picker picks up loose top stones and is equipped with detachable 8 by 4-in. wheels that control digging depth.

You simply remove your loader bucket and pin the stone picker to the tractor's loader arms and hydraulic cylinders.

"I call it the poor man's rock picker because it costs only a fraction of what pull-type rock pickers cost, yet it can pick up large rocks and also be used for other jobs," says Garry Varga, owner. "Most pull-type rock pickers can't pick up rocks bigger than 1 1/2 or 2 ft. in diameter. Our rock picker is equipped with heat treated carbon steel teeth that'll handle any rock your loader can lift. You can move the loader up or down to shake dirt off the rocks whereas pull-type rock pickers tend to pick up topsoil. It works better than a front-end loader bucket because you don't wreck the bucket. It also works great as a manure fork for cleaning corrals, feedlots, and manure piles along fence lines. The wheels can be set to adjust depth of tines depending on rock size. They're really handy for tractors that have poor up-front visibility."

Fits all front-end loaders and is available in 6, 7, and 8-ft. models with 2 1/2, 3, and 3 1/2-in. tooth spacings. Sells for $520 to $696 (Canadian) depending on width and tine spacing. The optional wheels sell for $185 apiece.



"Poor man's rock picker" has pair of gauge wheels that adjust running depth.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, G. Daves Iron Works and Welding, Box 161, St. Benedict, Sask., Canada S0K 3T0 (ph 306 289-2027).

Sliding Door Opener

"Pushing heavy sliding doors open and shut used to be one of the worst jobs on the farm," says Gordon Koenig, who invented and is now marketing a new automatic sliding door opener designed to fit any size sliding door.

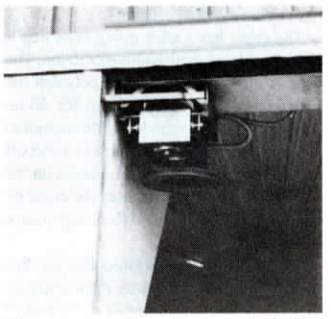
The system consists of the opener and a track or "gear rack" that mounts along the inside of the door near the top. The opener, powered by a 1/3 hp electric motor, mounts in the corner of the header with six lag screws. A 1/2-in. deep, 3/4-in. wide groove is cut into the inside of the door for the gear rack to screw into. As a gear on the opener turns, it meshes with the gear rack to open or close the door. The bottom of the door rides along a 1 by 1-in. track mounted flush with the ground.

"I built it because I looked around for an automatic door opener but couldn't find one. It really works slick," says Koenig.

A pair of pressure springs keeps the opener tight against the gear rack while spring-loaded pulleys push the door down into the track on the ground. "The ground track isn't absolutely necessary, but I recommend it to keep the door from flopping back and forth in the wind during opening and closing," says Koenig. "The gear rack extends six inches beyond the door in order to open the door all the way. There's a safety switch so if the door encounters an obstacle or freezes to the ground the opener will automatically stop. It takes about 30 seconds to open or close a 20-ft. wide door. You can increase door opening speed by changing drive pulleys."

An opener for a 20-ft. wide door sells for $650 to $700.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GorBon Enterprises, Inc., 10540 11th Ave. N.E., Rochester, Minn. 55906 (ph 507 289-2211).



Opener mounts up in corner of door opening. Motor-driven gear runs against gear track mounted on back side of door.