



Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Special-Built Ridge Tractor

Ridge-tilling farmers got a peek at the future recently when Hiniker Company, one of the leading manufacturers of ridge-till equipment, unveiled its special-built, ridge-till tractor.

Built from the ground up by company designer Dick Schultz, the experimental tractor was built solely with ridge-till farmers in mind. Because a ridge-tilling farmer basically only uses a tractor to plant and cultivate, pulling power is less important than good visibility, balance (many ridge-tillers have to carry large amounts of ballast on the front of their conventional tractors), and lateral stability (keeping ridge-till planters and cultivators on top of the ridges).

The articulated tractor's "pull-under" design provides the visibility needed, along with precision control. There's two-way hydraulic 3-pt. hitch

between the wheels on the front, extended axle. Despite the long length of the machine, it has a tight 5-ft. turning radius because of the combination of front wheels that steer and an articulation point just ahead of the cab.

The frame of the machine was built from the ground up. Schultz used an International 345 engine and hydrostatic combine final drives. The engine is mounted in the rear over the main drive axle and just behind the cab. Hydrostatic 4-wheel drive moves the 145 hp. tractor through an infinite speed range from 0 to 18 mph.

The 15,000-lb. tractor is carried on 18.4 by 38 rear tires and 14.9 by 26 front tires.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hiniker Co., P.O. Box 3407, Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507 625-6621).

Do-It-Yourself Flytags

North Dakota cattlemen have picked up on a method developed by Mandan veterinarian Dr. Don Hastings to make "do-it-yourself" eartags that keep pesky insects away from cattle at a fraction of the cost of commercial tags.

The Midway Vet Clinic, Mandan, funds a non-profit research foundation, called the Dakota Foundation for Animal Health, that looks into new money-saving livestock ideas. In addition to the eartag idea, the Foundation has also yielded a first-of-its-kind treatment for ringworm and a twinning shot for sheep that reportedly produces 20% more lambs per flock by virtually guaranteeing twin lambs.

Dr. Hastings says the eartag idea is catching on because "the leather insecticide tags work as well or better than commercial tags. Extension agents tested the tags last year against commercial tags in an 800-cow herd and found that the tags were equally effective, and that the homemade eartags were less likely to fall off." Dr. Hastings notes that 97% of the ear tags stayed in place on the test herd.

The idea is to use soft scrap leather cut into strips about 1 in. wide and 7 in. long. The strips are soaked in a 10% solution of an insecticide — Dr. Hastings recommends a 10% permethrin solution — and a hole punched



about 1/2 in. from the end of the tag. The tag is attached to the ear with a nylon-type electrical tie that's snugged up fairly tight.

Hastings recommends treating the tags by stuffing 75 to 80 strips into a quart jar and filling it half full with insecticide. After 12 to 24 hours, the tags will be completely saturated.

"The tags can be reused again and again. The insecticide seems to lubricate them and keep them pliable," says Dr. Hastings, noting that if scrap leather, available at leather stores, is used to make the tags the cost can be as low as 15 cents apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Don Hastings, Midway Veterinarian Clinic, Box 911, Bismarck, N.D. 58501 (ph 701 663-9841).

Grain Auger Vacuum

"It was cheaper than buying a new grain vacuum, is more portable and now I have a two-in-one machine," says Ian Saul, Semans, Sask., who modified his 7-in. grain auger by adding a grain vacuum to it.

Now, instead of using a sweep auger to clean out bins, Saul can simply use the grain vacuum that's attached to the auger.

He took a centrifugal fan off an air seeder and mounted it on his engine-powered auger and powered the fan off the engine.

The fan sucks grain up through a 4-in. dia. flex hose and into a cyclone. Grain then drops through an air lock, also powered off the engine, and drops into the auger.

The cyclone clamps onto the auger over a hole that Saul cut in. He notes that the unit can handle 500 bu. an hour of wheat.

He's looking for a manufacturer.

For more information, con-



tact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ian Saul, Box 247, Semans, Sask. SOA 3S0 (ph 306 524-4901).