



Thor mounted pull-type Deere forage harvester on 3-pt. hitch of his Versatile 276 Bi-Directional tractor. "Visibility and maneuverability are excellent," he says.

Pull-Type Chopper Mounted Up Front

"It's the best idea I ever had," says Charles Thor, Hutchinson, Minn., about the way he mounted a standard pull-type Deere forage harvester on the 3-pt. hitch of his bi-directional Versatile 276 tractor (the same as a Ford New Holland 276).

Thor rebuilt the chopper, stripping off the conventional drive components and pull-type components, and fitting it with 3-pt. hitch brackets. He also had to modify the chopper blower. The straight-out design of the blower chute - rather than going straight up and then back - substantially reduces horsepower requirements, notes Thor. The long discharge chute runs back along one side of the tractor.

"Visibility and maneuverability are excellent. We've used both 2 and 3-row machines this way with great results. It's a

great way to make use of the bi-directional capability of the Versatile, which has plenty of power to do the job. The tractor is fitted with an automatic power hitch on front so the operator can remain in the cab when hooking and unhooking wagons. A control lever automatically turns the spout on the end of the discharge chute when cutting curved rows," says Thor, adding that he can quickly unhitch the chopper when necessary.

Engineers from Ford New Holland have taken a look at Thor's chopper, and he's built a couple units for neighbors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles C. Thor, Custom Made Equipment, 16378 Hwy 15, Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 612 587-2380 or 612 487-2289).

"Spreader/Cleaner" Now On Market

That combination "spreader-cleaner" we first reported on 5 years ago (Vol. 13, No. 1) is now on the market. It mounts on top of any grain bin and both cleans and spreads grain as it's augered into the bin.

Invented by Gerald Hoppe, St. Clair, Minn., the spreader-cleaner consists of a cone-shaped screen that's positioned above a plastic hopper. The spreader/cleaner mounts just below the top bin opening. Grain is augered into the cylinder and then down across the cone-shaped screen. Chaff, fines, insects and bees' wings fall through the screen, slide down a tube, and exit outside the bin where they can be loaded into a truck or trailer.

The 65-lb. unit attaches to the top of the bin by three chains and fits bins up to 48 ft. in diameter.

"It does as good a job or better than any cleaner on the market. It has no belts, pulleys, gears or flighting so maintenance is



"Spreader-cleaner" has cone-shaped screen positioned above plastic hopper.

minimal," says Glee Persson, Carver Co., Inc., Belle Plaine, Minn.

Sells for \$489.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carver Co., Inc., Box 91, 215 N. Meridian St., Belle Plaine, Minn. 56011 (ph 800 967-1664).

Self-Propelled Disc Windrower

Latest new development in those high-speed mowing machines we've been telling you about is a self-propelled disc windrower from Case International.

Billed as "the first production windrower of its kind to combine self-propelled capacity with disc-cutting performance," the new Model 8850 is powered a 152 hp Case 6T-590 turbocharged 6-cyl. diesel.

Equipped with 10 oval cutting discs (2 blades per disc), the new 8850 takes a 15 ft. 3 in. swath and boasts a cutting speed of up to 10 mph. Two hydraulic motors drive the discs at 2,600 rpm.

Windrow width ranges from 40 to 90 in.

Other features include a steel-on-steel



Case-IH 8850 disc mower has 10 oval cutting discs driven by hydraulic motors.

intermeshing conditioner, two-speed hydro transmission, hydrostatic steering, adjustable rear axle, and 15 mph road speed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Case International, 700 State St., Racine, Wis. 53404 (ph 414 636-6705).

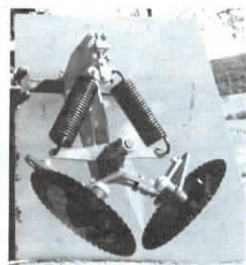
"Wedge-Till" Row Unit

You've heard of ridge-till, no-till, minimum-till, and strip-till. Now there's "wedge-till", a new-style planting method that uses angled disc openers like nothing you've ever seen before.

The Australian-built "Vydrill" row units lifts up a wedge of soil and puts seed and fertilizer underneath, then puts the wedge of dirt back without disturbing the soil surface. The angle and spacing of the discs virtually eliminates sidewall compaction, according to the manufacturer.

The spring-loaded discs are spaced about 5 1/2 in. apart at the bottom of the seed trench, creating inclined furrow walls. The momentum of seed carries it down the furrow walls to the bottom of the trench. Seed and fertilizer can be placed on each side at the bottom of the trench, allowing small grains to be planted in paired rows. Or, by using one tube for seed and the other for fertilizer you can band fertilizer alongside the row.

When operated at a depth of 4 in., the discs disturb about a 14-in. wide strip of soil at the surface. By using three ranks of discs you can completely disturb the soil



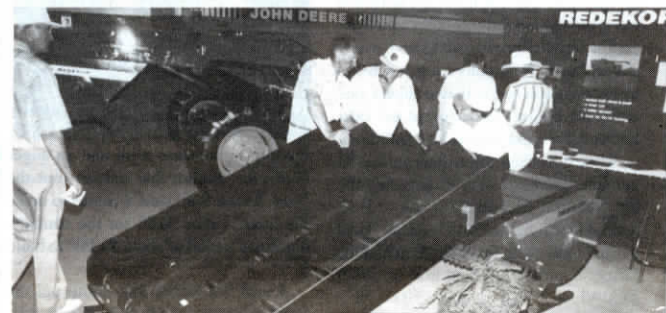
Angled disc openers lift up a wedge of soil and put seed and fertilizer underneath without disturbing soil surface.

surface for mechanical weed control.

A single rank of units can also be mounted on a toolbar and used for strip tillage in heavy residue.

Depth control is adjusted by raising or lowering the toolbar or by using a kit consisting of rubber press wheels that mount behind the discs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terratend Pty. Ltd., Box 228, Esk Qld. 4312, Australia (ph 074 242 030).



New chaff conveyor is designed to fit onto back of Deere 9500 and 9600 combines.

Conveyor Delivers Chaff Into Chopper

"Our new plastic chaff conveyor for Deere Maximizer combines lets you chop straw and chaff at the same time and spread it out over an area of up to 40 ft.," says Leo Redekop of Redekop Industries.

The cteated conveyor is designed to fit onto the back of Deere 9500 and 9600 Deere combines. The front end rests on the combine frame and the back end attaches to existing chopper hangers. The conveyor delivers chaff from the sieve into the specially-designed Redekop chopper, which is belt-driven by the existing combine chopper drive (see story on chopper in Vol. 16, No. 4). The conveyor can be used only with the Redekop chopper.

"It spreads over a much wider area than the factory chopper on Deere combines," says Redekop. "It's equipped with new-style hammers that produce a finer cut than the Deere chopper. Deere's chaff spreader is rated to spread chaff only about 18 ft. wide. The hammers create a high air flow that blows both chaff and straw out over an area of up to 40 ft. Or, you can detach the spreading unit and install a delivery spout that lets you blow chopped straw and chaff into a trailing wagon."

Chaff falls into a hinged pan on the chopper. To switch from spreading chaff and straw to dropping it intact onto the ground, you simply flip the pan back and remove



Front end of cteated conveyor rests on combine frame and back end attaches to existing chopper hangers.

the belt from the chopper. "Adding chaff to the straw makes for better feed if you bale or otherwise collect crop residue. A high percentage of the chaff will fall onto the straw and be incorporated into straw bales," says Redekop.

The chopper sells for \$3,500 while the chaff conveyor sells for \$1,050. Redekop notes that the chopper designed for the Deere 9600 will also fit the 8820 model, and the chopper designed for the 9500 will also fit the 7720.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Redekop Industries, Box 178A, RR 4, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 3J7 (ph 306 931-6664).