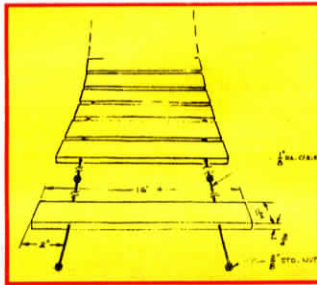


Roll-Up Walkways For Muddy Farmyards

A muddy farmyard during a wet spring gave John Jasmer, Yale, Mich., the idea for roll-up wooden walkways that he can roll out in the spring and then roll up again once the ground dries out.

"They're easy to store when you don't need them and take just a minute to unroll after heavy rains or in the spring. They keep mud from getting tracked into the house and you can also use them around other farm buildings," says Jasmer.

He made the walkways using 16-in. long boards taken from used wood pallets. Two 1/8-in. steel cables run through the side of each board with 3/8-in. nuts between each pair of boards as spacers. The boards measure 3/4 in. thick by 1 1/2 in. wide but Jasmer notes that most any size scrap lum-



ber would work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Jasmer, 11395 Jeddo Rd., Yale, Mich. 48097.

He Uses Newspaper To Stop Weeds

Old newspapers work great to control weeds in flower and vegetable gardens, says Tom Gogerty, Madrid, Iowa.

Gogerty simply spreads the paper around newly planted flowers, tomato plants and any place else he wants to stop weeds, and then covers the paper with an inch or so of soil. The paper keeps weeds from sprouting for several weeks, just like a plastic mulch barrier. Unlike plastic, however, it still lets moisture through and eventually disintegrates in the soil leaving no harmful residue. It gives plants a chance to get a head start on weeds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Gogerty, 1952 QL Lane, Madrid, Iowa 50156 (ph 515 795-2685).



He Plants Corn Behind His Combine

Prompted by wet weather that kept him from harvesting much of his corn last fall, Michigan farmer Ray Rawson decided to wait until this spring to harvest the crop - and pull his planter behind the combine at the same time. Unexpectedly, the snow melted last winter and he was able to finish harvest by late February. However, this spring he still plans to pull a 6-row Kinze planter equipped with Rawson no-till coulters behind his Deere 7720 6-row, 4-WD combine.

"I just want to see if it will work," says Rawson, a conservation tillage pioneer. "I didn't want to compact the fields by going in with my combine in early spring when the soil is still wet. By waiting until May 1 or so, I can let the soil dry off and plant at the same time. I tested the idea a little last fall. The only problem was that corn residue coming

out the back of the combine covered the planter and clogged up the drive chains. To solve the problem I mounted directional spreaders on the combine to force chaff sideways instead of backward.

"The combine should have plenty of power and hydraulic capacity to do the job. I'll use the hydraulic pump for the combine header to control hydraulic operations on the planter. I mounted a pair of electric-over-hydraulic valves in the cab. One valve is used to raise and lower the planter, and the other valve that's normally used to operate the markers will be used to operate the cross auger that fills the planter with dry fertilizer. Otherwise the planter will operate the same as if it was pulled by a tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Rawson, 7413 North Nottawa Road, Farwell, Mich. 48622 (ph 517 588-2230).



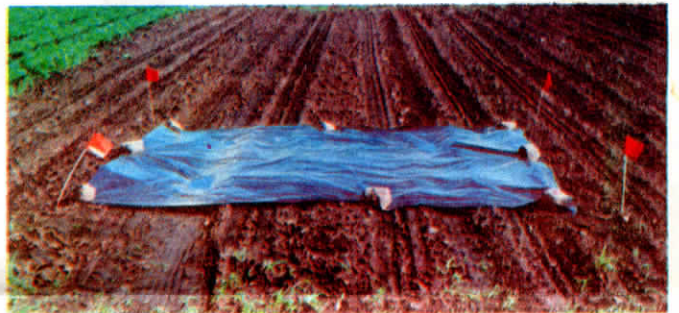
They Move Hog Huts Inside For Cold-Weather Farrowing

From June to September, Marv and Brian Recker, Bernard, Iowa, use their 50 by 104-ft. machine shed to store equipment as well as for temporary storage of hay and grain. But when winter comes, they clear it out to make room for the hog huts which they bring in from pasture for cold-weather farrowing.

A ridge vent and the 14 by 20-ft. doors

provide ventilation. No supplemental heat is needed. Walk-in side doors open to outside pens where sows are fed and watered. Wire panels between hutches keep sows in their own alleys.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Recker, 20287 Raysford Lane, Bernard, Iowa 52032 (ph 319 879-3448).



Simple Way To Predict Weed Growth

A Wisconsin crop researcher is promoting a simple new technique that makes it easy to predict future weed growth in fields.

Gordon Harvey, an agronomist at the University of Wisconsin, says the idea is not new but has been overlooked by many farmers and scientists.

The idea is to lay a plastic tarp over a small section of field when applying chemicals, leaving an untreated check area that lets you predict actual weed growth for next season. Each check area should be about 10 by 10 ft. and you should have at least three check areas in different parts of each field.

Harvey says you can also simply turn off your boom for a short distance to leave an

untreated area or, if incorporating, shut off your sprayer and raise the tillage tool out of the ground.

About 40 days after planting you take an estimate of the weed pressure in the untreated plots. Harvey has a brochure detailing the method that helps make accurate assessments and the percent of yield loss that type of weed growth could cause. The brochure also helps determine at what point weed treatment will be most profitable for each particular situation.

For a free copy of the brochure, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordon Harvey, University of Wisconsin, 254 Moore Hall, Madison, Wis. 53706 (ph 608 262-7975).

