

"THE BEST WEARING AND BEST SEALING KNIFE ON THE MARKET"

New Anhydrous Knife Pulls Easy, Seals Tight

"It's the best wearing and best sealing anhydrous ammonia knife on the market," says Herb Stam about his new "B-33 Mole" that he says represents the first real change in anhydrous knives in 50 years.

The new-style knife is equipped with a 1 1/2-in. wide horizontal "foot" at the bottom that lifts the soil and also breaks it up over a 4 to 5-in. wide area. Ammonia is propelled sideways into the pocket formed immediately behind the foot. A vertical splitter" welded onto the foot then divides and pushes the soil to cover the hole and seal in the ammonia.

"It forms a perfect seal in any kind of soil whether it's wet, dry, or hard," says Stam. "The problem with conventional knives is that they push the soil sideways and form a slot that's as deep as you run the knife. If the soil is a little wet the walls get smeared and later dry out, allowing ammonia to escape. The foot on my knife lifts and fractures the soil without forming walls, and the splitter immediately forces the soil back over the ammonia. It doesn't matter if the soil is wet or dry or if there's a lot of trash because the ammonia is sealed several inches below the ground surface. Another advantage is that the 4 to 5-in. wide area of fractured soil allows the ammonia to more effectively penetrate the soil."

The top of the knife is only 3/8 in. wide and the foot only 1 1/2 in. wide so it pulls easy even in hard, dry ground, says Stam. The face plate is made from a special hardened steel and the tube is made from a wear-resistant material that won't rust and will last 7 to 10 times longer than conventional tubes, he adds. One farmer used his 13-knife applicator on over 3,500 acres before he had to change knives.

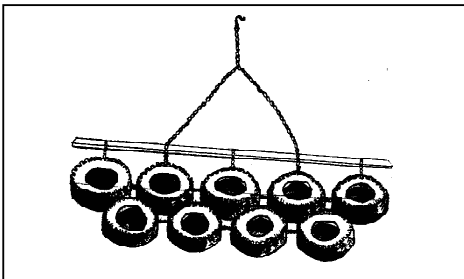


New-style knife is equipped with a 1 1/2-in. wide horizontal "foot" at the bottom that lifts the soil and also breaks it up over a 4 to 5-in. wide area.

"The knife can be equipped with up to three tubes, allowing you to apply dry and liquid fertilizer at the same time. Some farmers are experimenting with the knife in strip till systems by placing dry or liquid fertilizer a few inches above the ammonia but below the seed zone. By concentrating the fertilizer in a narrow zone they hope to get by with less fertilizer. Some farmers even use their ammonia applicators as subsoilers and pull the knives 10 to 12 in. deep. They like the fact that the knives pull easy and don't form slots that can dry out."

Sells for \$27.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hi-Pro Mfg., Box F, Rt. 24 West, Watseka, Ill. 60970 (ph 815 432-5271).



Recycled Tire Harrows

Here are a couple new twists on the concept of making a harrow out of used tires.

Bob Rodger, Bognor, Ontario, earned \$375 in prize money for his recycled tire harrow in the inventors contest at the Outdoor Farm Show at Burford, Ontario, earlier this fall.

"I had more than a dozen sales leads from the show alone," says Rodger who has started building the harrows for sale.

Also, unlike tire harrows for leveling corn stalks after spring disking, Rodger's is used on pasture and hay ground instead.

"It's ideal for bringing up matted grass and manure in spring in one pass," he says. "I also use it to spread out green manure during summer as I move cows from paddock to paddock."

Rodger's harrow is 12 ft. wide. It consists of nine 15-in. recycled car tires, 5 in front and 4 in back. Sidewalls are cut out of the bottom side so they're not as aggressive as tire harrows for crop land. Tires are hooked together with eye bolts and connector links and fastened to an ash 2 by 6 with lengths of chain. Another length of chain wraps around the board and hooks to the drawbar on Rodger's Allis Chalmers WD45 with a clevis.

Sells for \$250 (Canadian) plus delivery.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob or Brent Rodger, Hidden Acre Farm, R.R. 1, Bognor, Ontario, Canada NOH 1E0 (ph 519 794-4244).



Two-wheeled, pto-powered rig is equipped with a 10-ft. wide drum fitted with 58 bolt-on tines in a spiral pattern. You dump manure into long, narrow piles, then use the compost turner to mix up the piles periodically.

CONVERTS ORGANIC WASTE PRODUCTS INTO HIGH-QUALITY FERTILIZER

Tractor-Pulled Compost Turner

"You can convert manure, crop residue, and other organic waste into valuable compost with our new pto-powered pull-type compost turner," says Edwin Blosser, Midwest Bio-Systems, Tampico, Ill.

The 2-wheeled "Aeromaster" is equipped with a 10-ft. wide drum fitted with 58 bolt-on tines in a spiral pattern. You dump manure or other organic matter into long, narrow piles, then use the compost turner to mix up the piles periodically. The drum blends and aerates while at the same time allowing carbon dioxide to escape. It leaves triangular windrows about 4 1/2 ft. high and 10 ft. wide at the base. Water and "compost starter" can be added at the same time, if desired, to improve the breakdown of material and rate of microbe growth. The rig can be equipped with a 1,000-gal. pull-behind water tank or an optional 65-gal., side-mounted plastic tank.

Edwin Blosser says interest in the new compost maker has been tremendous. His company already has 68 rigs in 25 states. "It works with any kind of waste product - anything organic can be composted, including wood chips. An Arizona poultry producer mixes ground-up yard waste with



Counterweight on one side of machine keeps it stable.

chicken manure. Several Midwest beef and dairy operators are using our machines."

Blosser says it takes 6 to 8 weeks to turn manure into odorless compost. He recommends turning the piles every day during the first week, about four times the second week, about three times the third week, and once the fourth week and every week thereafter until the compost is finished. The machine's axle can be hydraulically adjusted on-the-go 6 in. up or down for optimum drum height as you move through the pile. The hood and drum raise vertically and lock in place for transport. A counterweight on one side of the machine keeps it stable.

Sells for about \$20,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Midwest Bio-Systems, Rt. 1, Box 121, Tampico, Ill. 61283 (ph 815 542-6426).

Barn Restorer Brings New Approach To Big Jobs

If you've got an old barn that's headed south, you might want to get in touch with Ted Micka.

The south central Michigan barn restoration expert brings a different approach to working on barns than most contractors.

For example, Micka only uses simple machines such as winches, levers and hydraulic jacks. He designed steel brackets himself to repair rotted or sagging posts, beams, rafters, etc.

He says repairs can be done in stages, focusing on the most critical structural problems first, then proceeding with other areas on a schedule the customer feels comfortable with.

I don't want the patient to die, so I do the emergency room 'bypass surgery' right away," says Micka, who holds a degree in engineering from the University of Michigan and has 10 years experience in the barn

repair biz. "You can do other less drastic projects, such as the roof or siding, over time. This way, it isn't so financially overwhelming for the owner."

The most common problem Micka tackles in old barns is rotting support posts or sagging stone walls.

His approach appears to be popular. He works on about 20 barns a year and is booked four years in advance by customers, all of whom live within a 2-hour drive of his Brooklyn, Mich., home. Because he's so booked, Micka has put together a 60-minute videotape detailing his restoration methods. "The Barn Repair Process: A Practical Approach" sells for \$29.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted Micka, Barn Repair & Restoration, 12346 Sharon Valley Road, Department F, Brooklyn, Mich. 49230 (ph 517 536-4371).