

you to get off the row. The company has agreed to modify my system at no cost to me," says Lowell Broer, New Providence, Iowa. "I needed something to help hold the cultivator on my ridge-till rows. I'm very satisfied with the performance of this system. It has a quick response time and all you have to do is keep the tractor between rows. If I were in the market for another system, I'd buy another Navigator."

Ron Albright, La Porte City, Iowa, has had good luck with his 1988 Buffalo 4630

"It guided the tractor precisely through cornstalk residue at speeds of 6 mph."

cultivator and guidance system, which can also be used with other cultivators. "The guidance system performed exactly as advertised. It guided the cultivator precisely through cornstalk residue at speeds of 6 mph."

"It turned a toolbar that normally doesn't follow the tractor well at all into a precision instrument," says Lanis Rabe, Chappell, Neb., about his 1988 Sunco Acura Trak system. "We bought it to reduce the need for skilled help for cultivating and I've had virtually no problems with it. It relieves stress and eliminates the need for fine-tuned driving. The system is well-designed with good workmanship and the company is concerned about customer satisfaction. I like the fact that it's basically a mechanical system that doesn't rely on electronics. One improvement it needs is that the wand assembly should be balanced fore and aft so

that side slopes won't affect sensing. It would also make lowering the implement on side slopes much easier."

"We bought 'The Guide' quick hitch guidance system from Lincoln Creek Manufacturing to prepare our fields for ridge planting this year. Your cultivator must do a good job or the guide wheels on your planter will not work right the following year. It did everything it was supposed to and then some. Once we tried this system, we parked the other cultivators and run the guided system 24 hrs. a day," says Rhodell Jameson, Minden, Neb. "The most important benefit of the system is one we never thought about before we bought it and that's reduced stress on the operator. It also lets you cultivate faster, save crops and cultivate closer. I plan to buy another one this year."

Morris Fisher, Polk, Neb., likes his Orthman Phase II Tracker bought in 1986. "I looked at several different makes but I like the Orthman design the best. I bought it primarily to hold my 8-row cultivator on the row on sidehills but it also works well on my Hawkens hillier. It does a great job on corn, milo or beans that are at least 5 in. tall. It could use a more foolproof way to raise the guiding wands. If you back up and they're not raised, they'll get bent out of line."

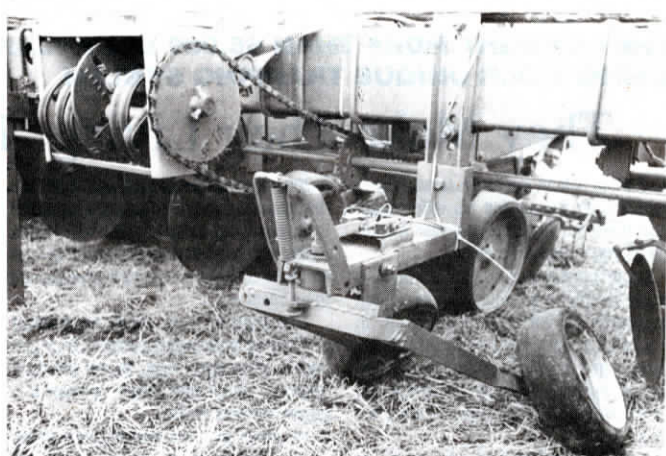
"The system performs well and does everything we need it to do. The drawbacks are the size and weight of the unit making it difficult to mount and dismount and to hook up hydraulic hoses to the tractor," says Don Barber, Fairbury, Neb., about his HR Manufacturing Navigator. "We use it for planting and cultivating. I was very happy with its ability to follow rows on sidehills. The auto slope feature is a big plus. For the first time since I started farming some of the steep hills on my farm, I didn't lose crop while cultivating."

"I bought the quick hitch version of 'The Guide' from Lincoln Creek Mfg. in 1988 to use for cultivating. Aside from a few 'first year flaws', it worked quite well. They should make the indicator lights on the console brighter or larger so that they can be seen easier. Otherwise, I'm happy with it," says Larry Siebert, Henderson, Neb.

John Miller, Catlin, Ill., says his Robotic Driver from Tri-R Innovations is a "best buy". "I use it for planting, cultivating, spraying and harvesting. It adapts to most any tractor or combine to give you hands off steering. I strip farm 6 rows of corn and 6 rows of soybeans and this drive lets me control planting and cultivating with ease. My 16-year old daughter cultivates and has a great time of it. She even takes her 12-volt TV with her. Because of the accuracy of this device, I have started banding herbicides and setting the cultivator closer to the row. It's very sensitive and will work in 4 in. tall corn or soybeans. No more back pain after a long day cultivating from looking backward. The people at Tri-R Innovations provide great service. I had some bugs at first but they drove the 85 miles to my farm and stayed with me until everything was perfect. They come right out with any updates and make the switch."

"We own four Orthman guidance systems. We're definitely doing a better job cultivating and using less chemicals. They're working to improve it and to make it easier to move from one machine to another. We'll probably buy another one for the 16-row planter we're building once we get a look at the latest new model," says John Romohr, Waco, Neb.

"You can go as fast as you want. It does



A pair of cultivator wheels are set at an angle that matches the slopes of the ridges. The bracket they're mounted on is connected to a microswitch that controls an electro-hydraulic valve.

ANGLED WHEELS "SENSE" THE ROW

Home-Built "Ridge Finder" Guidance System

A pair of cultivator wheels set at angles and tied into a hydraulic-electric system keeps Ray Jorgensen's Deere 12-row mounted planter on top of ridges at far less cost than a commercial guidance system, according to the Hampton, Iowa farmer.

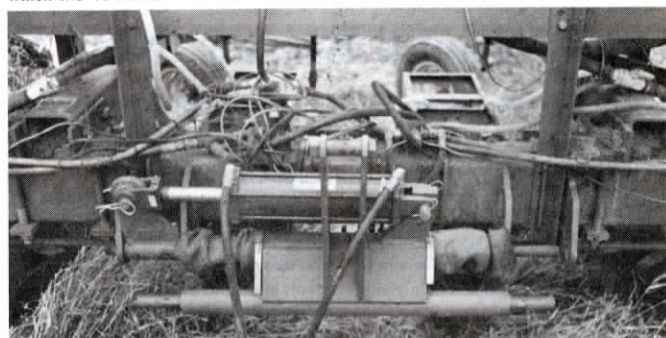
"I invested less than \$1,000 in this system," says Jorgensen. "The back-and-forth movement of a hydraulic cylinder, coupled with the stability of the tractor's 3-pt. hitch, is enough to keep the planter on the ridges without any assistance from the operator."

The cultivator wheels are set at angles matching the slopes of the ridges and are supported by a bracket made from 2 by 4 in. channel iron. The bracket is bolted to the toolbar on the left side of the planter. The wheels mount on a pivoting vertical arm which moves a short horizontal arm that

contacts a pair of microswitches. The microswitches control an electro-hydraulic valve that sends oil to a 4 by 12-in. cylinder mounted horizontally between the planter's hitch arms. The cylinder shifts the planter hitch back and forth so that when the planter is hooked up to a tractor 3-pt., it'll move 6 in. in either direction independently of the tractor.

Jorgensen says he hasn't mounted the guidance system on his cultivator. "On my 30-in. rows there's too much trash between the rows and the ridge sides aren't wide enough for the wheels to ride on."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Jorgensen, 302 3rd Ave. N.E., Hampton, Iowa 50441 (ph 515 456-3869).



The tractor 3-pt. hitch mounts on this cultivator hook-up which is shifted back and forth by a hydraulic cylinder to keep the cultivator on the row.

a better job steering the tractor than I do," says Gary Wipf, Frankfort, S. Dak., about his Robotic Driver guidance system from Tri-R Innovations. "My only suggestion is that I'd like to see them develop a radar sensor to replace the mechanical feelers."

"I'm happy with my Orthman Tracker II but the company has come out with a new model that has simplified the hydraulics and has a progressive correction system instead of the current 1-to-1 correction system. I wish I owned the newer model but I've been quite satisfied with my system, which I bought a year ago. I did have a problem halfway through planting, however, and I was more than a little irritated but my dealer

is a farmer and he got me all the help I needed. A factory man even came out. It turned out to be just a slipped sensor. I like the way this system helps keep my planter on the ridges," says Bob Schneider, Alberta, Minn.

Daryl Madsen, Irene, S. Dak., bought a Navigator from HR Manufacturing in 1988 for planting and cultivating on ridges. "It works very well and is really responsive. It's refreshing when a company stands behind their product and corrects problems that crop up at no charge. They picked it up and strengthened the unit with additional bracing where some owners had cracking problems."

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