

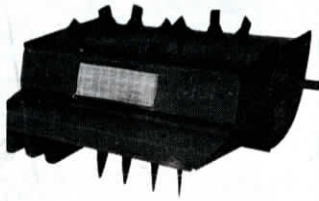
CHOPS STRAW, STALKS FINER THAN CONVENTIONAL HAMMERS

"Sharp Knife" Straw Cutter

"It's got easily replaceable knives, uses less horsepower and works great for minimum and no-till cropping because it chops up the crop so fine," says Jim Fritz, manufacturer of the "Big John" straw cutter that uses fixed knives rather than hammers to chew up straw behind combines.

Available to fit most combines, the straw cutter drum replaces the conventional spreaders and is powered by belt-drive off the engine. A steel drum fitted with fixed sharp knives spins at 2,100 rpm's through a second set of fixed knives mounted into the housing. Length of cut of straw or stalks can be adjusted from 2 in. to 1 ft. by changing the setting of the fixed knives. A spreader below and behind the cutting drum distributes residue evenly over a 25-ft. width behind the combine.

Fritz says fixed knives have a continuous positive cutting action which keeps slugs of straw from getting through. "It runs much more evenly and with less vibration than hammer-type straw choppers because it's always well-balanced. Swinging hammers can get bent back or out of



Straw cutter for a 7700 Deere has 36 knives.

synch depending on the amount of material passing through," explains Fritz. He adds that the sharp knife straw cutter uses 5 to 7 less hp. than hammer units and has less wear parts. Blades last up to 2,000 acres in small grains before they need replacing.

A straw cutter for a 7700 Deere, fitted with 36 knives, sells for \$1,495. Replacement blades cost \$3 apiece.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Big John Mfg. Co., Inc., Box 456, Osmond, Neb. 68765 (ph 402 748-3860 or 748-3868).



Agri-Vator is equipped with 15-in. long shanks that penetrate as deep as 8 in.

PUTS FERTILIZER IN ROOT ZONE WITHOUT TEARING UP THE FIELD

Agri-Vator Seeds, Feeds And "Air's Out" Pasture

"I can plant, fertilize and renovate my pastures in one operation," says rancher-turned-manufacturer Cliff Lauderdale, Caldwell, Tex., who builds a one-pass pasture drill that disturbs only a fraction of the surface of established pastures while totally reworking it at root level.

The heavy-duty Agri-Vator is fitted with 15-in. long shanks that penetrate to 8 in. The base of the shank is fitted with "wings" that lift and fracture the soil. A fertilizer tube behind each shank injects fertilizer at root level. Soil is opened up by a 20-in. dia. coupler just ahead of the shank that cuts 3 to 4 in. deep. As the shank passes, the deep slot closes and seed, if required, is planted 1 to 2 in. below the surface. Packer wheels trail behind, packing the 1-in. slot opened behind each shank.

"You can use half as much fertilizer as you would normally use on the surface and get the same results. Some farmers who've

used it tell me they've increased production on pastures by as much as five times," says Lauderdale.

A standard drill box mounts on the Agri-Vator frame and an extended tongue pulls a fertilizer tank behind. Lauderdale notes that the machine can be used to simply aerate fields. "It lifts and fractures soil so that it's like walking on carpet after you've used it," he says. It can also be used for no-till planting of any other crop.

The basic 9-shank Agri-Vator model sells for \$4,390. The seed box, which Lauderdale has special-built by Best Mfg., sells for \$3,500 and liquid and anhydrous attachments are extra. Any 10-ft. drill box could be used on the unit with the proper mounting brackets. Seven and 5-shank models are also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Vator Mfg. Co., Rt. 1, Box 100, Caldwell, Texas 77836 (ph 409 535-7505).



Paddles welded to huge 100-lb. chain links create "mini" rain dams.

UNCOMPLICATED CHAIN-PADDLE DESIGN CATCHES ON "DOWN UNDER"

Diker-Dammer Traps Water, Stops Erosion

A water-trapping machine that was introduced last year in Australia has already caught on fast there as an uncomplicated way to conserve moisture for dryland crops.

Inventor Bruce Smallacombe says the chain-paddle design of his "Conservation King" machine is the least complicated and most effective method he's found to keep moisture from running off fields.

He simply mounted heavy-gauge metal paddles on specially-designed 100-lb. chain links and strung them across the rear of a carrier frame that can be pulled alone or behind other equipment. The paddle-equipped chain rotates freely along the

ground, digging 4-in. deep pockets, spaced 1 ft. apart in any direction. Each mini-dam holds 1 1/2 gal. of water.

"Once you work a field it'll take a 2-in. rain without any runoff," says Smallacombe, noting that on hillsides or terraces the machine can help put an end to erosion. It also provides a certain amount of tillage and helps incorporate residue.

Smallacombe is looking for a North American manufacturer for the machine.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Smallacombe, Capella Sales & Engineering, P.O. Box 92, Capella, Queensland, Australia, 4702 (ph 079 84 9211).



"Bean Saver" prevents shattered beans from rolling off platform.

Low Cost Bean Saver

You'll like the price tag on the simple new "Bean Saver" for flex platforms, introduced by R & M Supplies, Clarion, Iowa.

Priced at only \$39.95, the bolt-on device virtually eliminates the loss of beans shattered by the reel and auger drum fingers, according to Rich Mussman, president.

"The Bean Saver, mounted in the center of the platform, prevents shattered soybeans from rolling off the platform and onto the ground," explains Mussman. "New bean plants coming into the platform

pull loose beans back into the combine."

Made of 14 ga. steel, the device mounts on two bolt guards. It's hinged to flex with the platform, and to make for easy cleaning.

One model fits most flex heads, including those on the Deere 200 series, Deutz-Allis, Gleaner, Massey Ferguson, New Holland and Claus combines.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R & M Supplies, 405 4th Ave. S.W., Clarion, Iowa 50525 (ph 515 532-3867).