

## Row Cleaner "Trash Wheels" Made Out Of Old Press Wheels

"They work just as good as commercial trash wheels but cost far less," says Steve Groff, Holtwood, Penn., who welded steel spikes around the perimeter of old press wheels to come up with inexpensive, single wheel "row cleaners" for his 4-row New Idea planter.

The "row cleaners" mount on lengths of angle iron that bolt onto the planter's fertilizer knife mounting bracket. The fertilizer couler, which is mounted 2 1/2 in. to the side of the row, cuts through the trash and the offset "row cleaners" follow behind to sweep debris away.

"They till and clear a 4-in. wide path ahead of each planter opener and self-clean as they work," says Groff. "They do a good job in corn and an almost perfect job in soybeans. The spikes are spaced far enough apart so they don't catch old corn cobs. Only one trash wheel is needed because the fertilizer couler cuts the trash. All the trash wheel has to do is peel it away.

"I bought the New Idea planter in 1987 equipped with conventional press wheels. I converted them to trash wheels two years ago when I decided to switch to no-

till and put new cast iron no-till press wheels on back. If I ever want to plant conventionally again I can remove the row cleaners by simply removing one bolt from each angle iron bracket. My only cost was for scrap iron and for bolts to make the spikes. It took about one day to make four row cleaners."

Groff first took the 1-in. rubber strip off from around each wheel and then drilled holes every 1 1/2 in. around the wheel perimeter, welding 1 3/4-in. long, 5/16-in. dia. bolts into each hole.

He moved the fertilizer coulers forward about 2 in. to make room for the row cleaners. The angle iron bracket, which is bent upward slightly at the back, pivots up and down on a single mounting bolt. Nuts welded to the side of the fertilizer knife bracket serve as "stops" to keep the row cleaners from dropping down too low (when the planter is out of the ground) or raising up too high when in operation.

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## "Maintenance-Free" Stainless Steel Wagon

"It completely unloads itself and is maintenance-free," says James Chuey, North Lima, Ohio, about the gravity flow fertilizer wagon he built out of stainless steel.

With the help of a local manufacturer, he completely changed the specifications and dimensions of conventional gravity boxes, making the sides steeper. And because the metal never corrodes, box sides stay smooth. He fitted a plastic 6-in. by 12-ft. Unverferth McCurdy nylon

bristled auger (with stainless shaft) to wagon so he can fill planter boxes without handling any material.

It cost about \$5,000 to build the 7-ton capacity box using both new and salvaged stainless steel. He plans to take orders to build them on a custom basis.

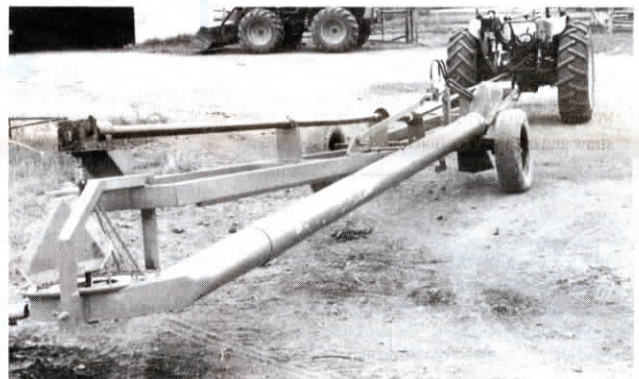
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# FARM SHOW

## "Made It Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



## "Shallow Water" Transfer Pump

Pumping water out of shallow ponds or streams can be a problem because most portable pumps have vertically-mounted impellers that require at least 2 ft. of water. Garry Nerbas, Langenburg, Sask., solved the problem by building his own pto-operated pump equipped with a horizontally-mounted 4-in. high impeller that he made out of an old 20-in. truck wheel rim. The impeller lies flat, allowing it to work in water as shallow as 6 in.

Nerbas ran a 15-ft. long pto shaft back to a gearbox - mounted above the impeller - that he salvaged from an old hay crimper. A 3-ft. long pto shaft runs from the gearbox down to drive the impeller which is contained in a housing welded to the end of an 8-in. dia., 15-ft. long steel pipe, mounted on a 2-wheel trailer.

"I use it to drain shallow sloughs or wet spots in fields and to fill ponds with water that I use for irrigation. It'll pump about 3,200 gal. per minute," says Nerbas. "A hydraulic cylinder lowers the pump into the water. I use flexible rubber hose to connect the output end of the pump to irrigation pipe lying on the ground."

Nerbas built the pump's impeller by welding sheet metal onto the bottom of the truck wheel rim and bolting sheet metal to the top. He cut a 9-in. dia. opening in the center on top for water to enter and also cut a 1-ft. long hole in one side of the wheel rim. He split an 8-in. long, 4-in. dia. section of steel pipe in two and welded each half to the pto shaft that comes down from the gearbox. The swirling blades create suction to draw water into the impeller, then force it out through the hole and into the 15-ft. long steel pipe.

He used 4 by 2-in. box steel to build the trailer frame and mounted it on a pair of automotive wheels. He used 1-in. dia. steel shaft to make the 15-ft. long pto shaft and put a length of 2-in. dia. pvc pipe over it as a guard.

"I've built four pumps so far and sold two of them for \$3,200 each. I'm willing to build more on a custom basis," notes Nerbas.

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