

**ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE, IT REMOVES
DIRT, DEBRIS INSTANTLY**

New Hydraulic Hose Tip Cleaner Fits on Tractor

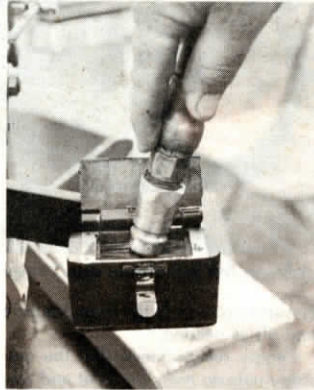
"With this handy cleaner, you don't have to find a rag or use your pants leg to wipe off hydraulic hose tips. You just stick them in the cleaner and it removes dirt instantly," says Todd Goheen, Carrington, N. Dak. farmer-inventor.

The 3-in. dia., 4-in. high cleaner has a small wire brush on each side. The brushes along with diesel fuel you pour into the bottom, cleans the tips.

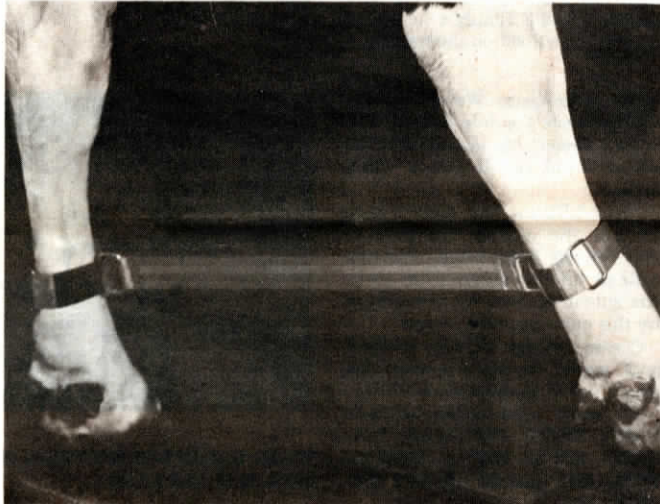
Cleaner bolts to the tractor's hydraulic port using an existing bolt. A snap top cover keeps out dust.

Sells for \$17.50.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tough-T Manufacturing, Box 79, Glenfield, N. Dak. 58443 (ph 701 785-2555).



Prototype cleaner bolts to tractor's hydraulic port.



Strap keeps cow from collapsing when mounted by other animals during heat.

HOLDS REAR LEGS TOGETHER

"Split Guard" Keeps Cattle From Going Down

You can keep cows from doing the splits on slippery barn floors with new "Split Guard", a quick-attach safety hobble strap that holds the rear legs together so the cow doesn't collapse when other animals mount during heat.

The idea took shape on Bill and Pat Oswald's dairy farm near Vicksburg, Mich. "We used to use chains and ropes or whatever we could find," says Pat, whose new Split Guard straps, made from a woven nylon, fasten quickly with a Velcro fastener. The strap has a pre-determined length of spread that fits any size cow. It lets the animal move and lie

down freely while wearing it. Strap has a tensile strength of 2,500 lbs.

Pat Oswald says the strap should be placed on the cow shortly before she goes into heat and left on for a couple weeks. Farmers, she notes, don't put them on until the animal has already been damaged. Once an animal has gone down the straps can still prevent severe nerve damage by keeping them from going down again.

Split Guard sells for \$12.50.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oxland Enterprises Inc., 415 W. Prairie St., Vicksburg, Mich. 49097 (ph 616 649-0706).



Photo courtesy The Land

One of Rex Oberhelman's new vegetable-growing techniques includes the use of old tires to support vining crops.

HE'S FORMING GROUPS OF FARMERS TO MARKET THEIR CROPS TOGETHER

He Turned To Vegetable Crops To Make A Living

A Minnesota farmer who lost his 120 acre farm to foreclosure 5 years ago is back in farming with a vegetable growing and marketing business that he hopes to franchise to farmers in other areas of the country.

Rex Oberhelman, Fairmont, Minn., got into truck gardening as a sideline to the full-time job he took after he lost his farm. His 1½ acres of crops, which netted \$2,800 the first year, grew to 5 acres and a net of \$27,000 last year. He credits his success to a marketing system. Instead of selling only to local store, he cut a deal with a large wholesaler that buys a total of \$770,000 worth of produce per week and enlisted other farmers in his area to join in as growers with him. They now classify their produce in two categories. Grade A produce is sold to stores while lesser quality, Grade B produce is sold to food manufacturers who produce commercial food products.

"Processing and marketing is the key to this type of enterprise," Oberhelman told FARM SHOW. He's already lined up 15 growers in his area and hopes to form a marketing group with a total of 50 to 75 farmers. "Then we hope to take the idea to other areas of the country. When farmers band together in a coopera-

tive way to produce vegetables they become much more competitive, and can build their own central processing centers to best serve their customers."

Oberhelman says each farmer needs only 7 to 10 acres to produce enough vegetable crops to support an average size family. He's targeted several vegetable crops as ideal for his type of labor intensive operations, including broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, cherry tomatoes, pumpkins, and winter squash. He's also developed several growing techniques that make the job easier.

Oberhelman's techniques include the use of black plastic mulch to eliminate the need for chemicals and the use of old tires for vining plants instead of stakes. He says the tires act as water reservoirs and solar collectors, helping soil stay warm and moist around the plants and keeping vegetables off the soil once plants begin to produce.

Oberhelman travels throughout the country explaining his growing and marketing system to other farmers.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rex Oberhelman, Rt. 1, Box 183, Fairmont, Minn. 56031 (ph 507 238-4744).