

## MARK ROCKS AS YOU PLOW OR CHISEL, RIGHT FROM THE TRACTOR SEAT

# Flag Marker Makes Rocks Easy To Find

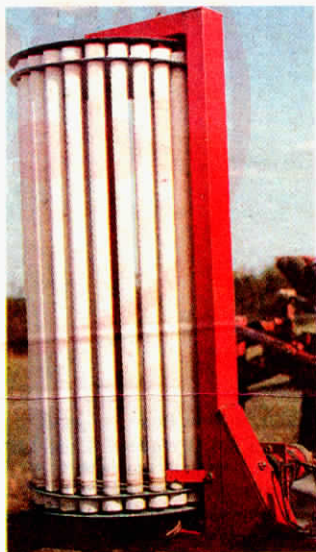
Gary Terwisscha, Clara City, Minn., designed a "rock marker" that makes it easy to go back into plowed fields and find rocks that tripped plow bottoms.

"It's a real time saver, I no longer have to stop and get off the tractor whenever I want to mark where a rock is located," says Terwisscha.

He mounted the prototype marker on the crossbar of his 8-bottom plow but it could be mounted on any tillage equipment. The marker consists of 24 plastic tubes, each one containing a fluorescent orange survey flag attached to a 2-ft. tall stiff wire.

When a rock trips a plow bottom, Terwisscha flips a switch in the tractor cab which drops a flag from the tube into a "driver", which is two small spinning wheels that grab the flag and propel it with force down into the soft soil. The easy-to-see flag sticks in the ground, standing erect so it's easy to spot when you come back into the field to dig out marked rocks. Flipping another switch in the tractor cab rotates the plastic tubes so they're in position to drop the next flag. Both switches are powered off the tractor battery.

K & M Manufacturing, Renville, Minn., is manufacturing the rock marker. It sells for right at \$350.



Marker consists of 24 plastic tubes, each one containing a flag affixed to a stiff 2 ft. long wire.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K & M Mfg., Renville, Minn. 56284 (ph toll free 800 328-1752; in Minn. 800 992-1702).

## SIMULATES ACTION OF REAL LIFE HORSE AND CALF

# "Roll-O-Roper" Helps Sharpen Roping Skills

"We think it will catch on with urban cowboys who are tired of riding mechanical bulls," says the manufacturer of Roll-O-Roper, a mechanical device that simulates real-life calf roping.

You mount the horse, rope in hand. Then, with a swift spurring kick to both sides of the horse, the spring-loaded mechanical calf shoots out from under the horse.

If you roped him, just pull on the rope to bring him back for "reloading" and another practice run. (You have to get off the horse, however, to manually re-position the calf under the horse and to cock the spring-loaded mechanism for the next run). If you missed, you'll have to walk 30 to 50 feet, depending on the type of running surface, to retrieve the calf.

"With the Roll-O-Roper, you can practice roping 15 calves in less time than it takes to catch your horse," notes Linda Jarred, office

manager for the Roll-O-Roper Co., Riverton, Wyo.

Bob Runner, inventor of the device, says several bar owners have expressed interest in setting up a Roll-O-Roper for patrons tired of riding mechanical bulls, to test their roping skills. However, he feels the primary market will be operators of dude ranches and roping schools, professional ropers, and amateur "cowboys" of all ages who want to hone their roping skills without exhausting horses and calves.

Jarred notes that youngsters "from 8 to 88" can operate the Roll-O-Roper unassisted. "Reloading the calf and cocking the spring-loaded mechanism isn't that difficult. An eight year old can do it," she points out.

The horse stands 14 hands tall and is equipped with 8 in. dia. wheels for easy moving wheelbarrow style.

The calf, riding on 5 in. dia.

## STRONG DEMAND FOR ORNAMENTAL COBS AND TASTY SEED

# Teenager Makes Money Raising "Mini" Popcorn

Shelly Hoff, Underwood, Minn., started gardening when she was 2 years old, dropping seed potatoes into hills in the family garden. Nine years ago she discovered miniature popcorn, her first "cash crop", and now at age 16 she probably produces more "Pencil Popcorn" seed than any other grower in the country.

Her "business" was given a boost last year when Mother Earth News magazine featured her unique brand of popcorn. Thanks to that report, she received nearly 5,000 requests for seed from throughout the world, including Saudia Arabia, Turkey, Australia, Europe as well as throughout the entire U.S. and Canada.

Shelly got her first miniature popcorn seed at a local craft sale. She planted the seed from the tiny ornamental ears of corn and has been selling the excess ears to nearby florists and at local farmers's markets ever since.

Full-grown mini popcorn ears are only about 2 to 4 in. long and have yellow, burgundy, rust, black, white, purple or wine-colored kernels. The stalks, which should be grown close together to keep the cobs stunted, grow to about 5 ft. tall and have 2 to 3 cobs each. When popped, the corn is white, fluffy, and tasty, according to Shelly.

Shelly did some research into the corn and found that it may have originated with the Cochiti Indians, a tribe that lived in New Mexico, back in the 1500's.



Shelly Hoff, 16, is the nation's largest producer of "Pencil Popcorn".

For a sample packet of 200 miniature popcorn seeds of assorted colors, send a \$1.00 with a self-addressed envelope stamped with 37 cents postage, to: FARM SHOW Followup, Shelly Hoff, Rt. 1, Box 171, Underwood, Minn. 56586 (ph 218 826-6793).

wheels, moves out, at normal running speed, a distance of 30 to 50 ft. when the spring-loaded mechanism is triggered. You can practice roping the calf with or without horns, and you can practice either head or heel roping. For youngsters, the calf can be made to move slower by manually removing a portion of the spring-

loaded mechanism.

Sells for \$865, including the horse, calf and bridle, but not the saddle.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roll-O-Roper, Inc., 4444 Skyline Avenue, Box 608, Riverton, Wyo. 82501 (ph 307 857-2046).

Spring loaded mechanical calf tucks under the horse. He shoots out a distance of 30 to 50 ft., depending on type of surface, when rider digs heels into both sides of the horse.

