Scheetz says his 40-ft. Seed Hawk no-till air seeder plants crops in rows as narrow as 12 in. without plugging up. Seed and fertilizer are augered to meters up front.

Each row unit mounts on a 7-ft. arm fitted with a hydraulic cylinder. Cylinder applies downpressure to a pair of 1/2-in. wide "fracturing knives" that place seed and fertilizer in ground with minimal sidewall compaction.

ILLINOIS FARMER USES "SEED HAWK" TO PLANT CORN, SOYBEANS, AND WHEAT IN 12-IN. ROWS

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

Canadian Air Seeder Makes Great No-Till Row Crop Planter

After searching across North America for "the perfect planter", Illinois farmer Tim Scheetz finally ended up on the prairies of Western Canada. That's where he found an air seeder that he felt would plant no-till narrow-row corn, beans and wheat with more efficiency than any planter he'd ever seen in the Midwest.

Seed Hawk one-pass air seeders are built in Langbank, Saskatchewan. After watching a 40-footer at work, Scheetz bought one and hitched it up behind his pickup for the 1,400 mile trip home. He used the planter last fall to plant 300 acres of wheat in 12-in. rows and plans to use it this spring to plant corn and beans, also in 12-in. rows.

"I looked a long time for a high-capacity, one-pass rig that would plant all my crops in narrow," says Scheetz. "The great thing about the design of the Seed Hawk is that it gives you narrow rows under true no-till conditions without plugging up."

The air seeder is equipped with three rows of widely-spaced, hydraulic-operated row units that simply clamp onto the frame. Each row unit mounts on a 7-ft. arm fitted with a hydraulic cylinder. The cylinder applies downpressure to a pair of 1/2-in. wide "fracturing knives" that place seed and fertilizer in the ground with minimal sidewall compaction. A 4-in. wide packer wheel mounts behind the knives.

A split tank mounts on top of the frame. It holds up to 7 tons of fertilizer and 180 bu. of seed. The material is augered up to six Valmar air meters mounted on front of the rig's frame and from there it's blown back to the knives.

"The designers of this planter solved a lot of the problems common to conventional no-till planters. It's also a high capacity machine that lets me plant up to 80 acres per hour without having to stop," says Scheetz. "Even though I plan to put all my crops in 12-in. rows, I could easily switch to 15 or 30-in. rows by simply rearranging row units.

"The direct hydraulic downpressure allows each row unit to follow the terrain much better than row units on conventional planters. Each cylinder constantly adjusts to ground conditions, keeping seed and fertilizer depth uniform. The rig's frame always remains at a fixed height without moving up or down.

"I can adjust hydraulic downpressure on-the-go from the tractor cab by looking at a gauge mounted on the frame that's visible from the cab. I usually apply about 1,200 lbs. of downpressure per cylinder. The fracturing knives go right through mud without plugging up like disc openers do. I've even blown seed right into standing water. The seed tubes are self-cleaning and you can see that seed is flowing by looking through clear plastic panels on front of the air meters.

"Seed and fertilizer are augered from the tank to the air meters at the front of the planter where they're blown to row units by a hydraulic-driven fan. This design requires only about 2 lbs. of air pressure compared to 15 lbs. for Case-IH air planters and results in very little seed bounce.

"The fertilizer knives place the fertilizer 1 in. from the seed and 3 in. deep. The knives are equipped with stainless steel shank protectors and titanium carbide tips. They can easily go 7,000 to 8000 acres before they wear out. By switching tanks I can apply either liquid or dry fertilizer.

"The planter came with metering rolls for small grains. I had to make my own rolls for corn and beans."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Seed Hawk, Inc., P.O. Box 123, Langbank, Sask. S0G 2X0 Canada (ph 800-667-4295 or 306 538-2221).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Scheetz, 2141 N. Co. Rd. 900 E., Nauvoo, Ill. 62354 (ph 217 453-2599).

Scheetz Reworks Challenger Tractor To Pull Planter

Tim Scheetz recently started a huge new project. He plans to "totally" rework a Cat Challenger tracked tractor to pull his Seed Hawk planter.

The Illinois farmer stripped the $150,000 tractor down to the frame. Then he remounted the cab further ahead on the frame, raising it 16 in. and reshaping the hood. Then he eliminated the back fuel tank, installing new saddle tanks on either side of the engine.

The most important part of the conversion was installing a first-of-its-kind sliding fifth wheel hitch on back of the Challenger frame to pull the planter (which he is fitting with a gooseneck hitch). He'll also use it to pull grain carts, fertilizer carts, and other equipment. He calls the reworked Challenger a self-propelled "cargo cart". The 5th wheel is equipped with a load sensor that slides the hitch back and forth as needed to balance the load being towed.

Scheetz hopes to have the reworked Challenger in the field this spring in time to pull his planter.

Dumping Manure Spreader

(Continued from cover page)

was equipped with a 1,000-gal. tank, tandem axle and 15-in. tires. He turned the chassis and running gear upside down so his shop-built tank would better fit. Also, so that he can pull the spreader from the drawbar on the 3-pt. hitch on his tractor.

"Using the 3-pt. hitch holds the load more evenly over rough terrain and makes it easier to hook and unhook," he notes.

He equipped the rear end of the spreader with an 18-in. dia. beater made out of a large dia. steel pipe fitted with 2-in. auger flighting. The beater is chain-driven off a hydraulic motor mounted on one side of the tank and spreads material out in a 10-ft. wide pattern. It feeds manure out evenly while holding it back so it doesn't all flow out at once.

The spreader is raised and lowered by 4-in. hydraulic cylinders mounted on each side.

"It raises straight up to vertical to completely empty out all of the material," Bauer says.

Out-of-pocket expense was $2,000, excluding the old spreader running gear Bauer already had. He says that he's currently looking for a manufacturer.

Spreader is raised and lowered by 4-in. hydraulic cylinders mounted on each side. It raises straight up to vertical to completely empty out all of the material.

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Vol. 23, No. 2, 1999

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FARM SHOW (ISSN #01634518) is published bimonthly (6 times a year) for $15.95 per year ($23.95 in Canada and foreign countries) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Shakopee, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572; fax 612 469-5575). E-Mail: Editor @ FARMSHOW.com. Website: www.FARMSHOW.com. Single copy price is $4.50 ($5.50 in Canada). Publication No. 469490 . GST No. 131272023.

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March-April, 1999