"Air Probe" mounts on a 2-wheeled trailer and is equipped with a large turntable that holds 20 small containers. Power is supplied by a small air compressor.

Air-Powered Soil Sampler Makes Quick Work Of Job

A new air-powered fully automatic soil sampler takes hundreds of samples an hour and is designed to make a tedious job easy. One push of a button takes each sample.

The "Air-Probe" was introduçed at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. Most interest is expected from co-ops and custom operators, but some large farmers will be able to justify it. A farmer could use it on his own land and do custom sampling for others, the manufacturer notes.

The unit is designed to be used for grid sampling. It mounts on a 2-wheeled trailer and is equipped with a large turntable that holds 20 small containers. Power is supplied by a small air compressor, and the controls are mounted on an ATV or pickup that pulls the trailer.

When activated, a small rake first removes residue underneath the probe. An air cylinder then forces the probe down to an exact depth. Once the sample has been taken, a tilt cylinder pivots the probe over into one of the containers, and another cylinder ejects the soil core into the container. After one grid has been completed, the turntable is rotated to the next container.

Soil cores are ejected into each container. After one grid has been completed, turntable is rotated to next container.

The unit eliminates sampling depth variation and encourages higher accuracy by making it easy to gather more samples per acre, says the company. It takes only about 15 seconds to collect one core sample or about 240 soil cores per hour. A water dripping system lubricates the probe to eliminate plugging. A spotlight allows 24-hour operation. The probe will penetrate up to 1 1/2 inches of frost, and uses Oakfield replaceable tips.

Sells for $9,800 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Furrer FAB Designs, 2358W 50N, Reynolds, Ind. 47980 (ph 219 984-6505; fax 6464; E-mail: furregj@furrerfabdesigns.com).

Twin-Row Corn And Bean Planter

Dennis Wallace, St. Bernard, Quebec, wanted the benefits of narrow rows but he didn't want to switch to 15-in. rows because it would have required switching to narrower tires on his tractor and sprayer and buying a different corn head for his combine.

To solve the problem he built a twin-row planter out of two Case-IH 800 6-row air planters, one ahead of the other. He replaced the double disc openers on the Case-IH row units with single disc openers off a Flexi-Coil air seeder. The result is a rig that plants six sets of twin rows spaced 8 in. apart, with 22 in. between each set of rows.

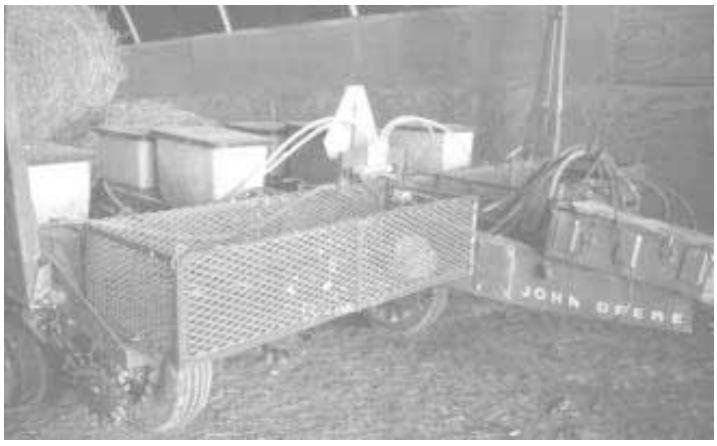
"It gives me the yield benefits of soybeans in 15-in. rows, without having to buy a new planter and spend time and money modifying my tractors and other equipment," says Wallace.

He bought the two pull-type Case-IH 800 6-row planters at a junkyard. The two planters are connected by a pair of hinged steel beams. The back planter is supported by a pair of dolly wheels. He stripped off the original row units and mounted Flexi-Coil single disc fertilizer and seed openers on each planter. The air modules deliver seed to the Flexi-Coil units.

"I built it 1 1/2 years ago and used it last year to plant all my soybeans and about 40 acres of corn. I was able to drive all my equipment between the rows with no problems. My soybeans averaged about 56 bu. per acre, compared to the 50 bu. per acre I'd been getting with drilled beans. My corn yields were comparable to the rest of my corn which I planted in 30-in. rows," says Wallace.

"A lot of corn growers have switched from 30-in. rows to 20 or 15-in. rows without knowing for sure that it'll pay off. A 3-year University of Ontario trial shows that twin corn rows usually yield better on poor land. However, on better land there's not a big yield increase. If I ever decide to plant soybeans in 15-in. rows, I can just loosen the brackets on the row units and move them over.

"However, planting soybeans in twin rows has several advantages. It saves me about $10 per acre on soybean seed costs compared to planting with a drill. I get better control of white mold disease because there's more air movement between the rows. I planted some Roundup Ready beans and some conventional. Where I sprayed with an herbicide other than Roundup there were weeds between the sets of twin rows, but no weeds inside them due to a dense canopy.



Kubik used expanded metal and angle iron to make a pair of boxes that mount across front of Deere planter.

See-Through Storage Boxes Fit Front Of Planter

Here's a simple idea that makes things easier at planting time.

Jim Kubik at Iowa State University's research farm made a pair of boxes to mount across the front of the farm's Deere planter. The boxes are made out of expanded metal and angle iron.

The boxes are strong yet you can see inside them at a glance to see what they're carrying. Kubik uses the boxes for seed, chemicals, tools, and other supplies. One box mounts on each side of the toolbar, on its front side.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Kubik, Iowa State Univeristy Research Farm, 1079 320th St., Rhodes, Iowa 50234 (ph 515 493-2738).

Handy Rock Box Dumps Out The Bottom

Jack Gogerty, Zearing, Iowa, made his own heavy-duty rock box which mounts on his Oliver 2255 tractor.

"The bottom side of the box is hinged on the back side. All I do to dump the rocks out is pull a lever mounted on front of the box," says Gogerty. Gogerty bought the tractor already equipped with the box. It measures 2 ft. square and is bolted to the front of the tractor at two different places. "It's as handy for carrying tools as it is for hauling rocks," notes Gogerty.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Gogerty, 71095 105th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 515 487-7489).

Rock box mounts on Gogerty's Oliver 2255 tractor. To dump rocks out all he does is pull a lever mounted on front of box.

Wallace's twin-row planter is built out of two Case-IH 800 6-row air planters. It plants six sets of twin rows spaced 8 in. apart, with 22 in. between each set of rows.

"The single disc openers penetrate the ground much easier than double disc openers and make it easier to control seed depth. I farm a lot of different soil types, from muck soils with 30 percent organic matter to clay with only 5 percent organic matter in the same field. I always had trouble getting double disc openers to penetrate the clay soil.

"In corn I place a single band of dry fertilizer between each set of twin rows. If I planted in 15-in. rows I'd need twice as many fertilizer openers which would make the planter much heavier and much more expensive.

"Each hopper holds 15 bu. I can plant 25 to 28 acres of beans at a time per fill-up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Wallace, 243 Roxham Rd., St. Bernard, Quebec, Canada J0J 1V0 (ph 450 247-2469; E-mail: denkat@videotron.ca).