

Multivator power tiller is said to work great for growing specialty crops.

## Americanized Multivator Meets Growing Specialty and Organic Grower Needs

A long established specialty crop tiller is finding new uses and new users as row crop farmers look for alternatives to corn and soybeans. The Multivator from Marysville, Ohio-based Mitchell Equipment can be used to work up planting beds, cultivate between rows, or to incorporate mulch and fertilizer.

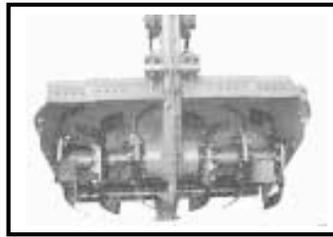
When company representatives first saw the Multivator at an Italian farm equipment show 20 years ago, they liked the design but knew it wouldn't last in U.S. fields.

"Our strawberry growers were looking for a tool they could use to renovate beds," says Chris Ford, president. "It does that well and a lot more, but we needed to 'Americanize' it. We strengthened the frame and other key components to handle the bigger, higher hp tractors common in this country."

With falling commodity prices, the heavy duty tiller has proven to be just the ticket for farmers considering alternatives to traditional crops and cultural methods. "Row crop farmers who are thinking about trying a value added crop are a key growth area for us," says Ford. "And organic growers are looking for equipment like this as an alternative to herbicide based weed control."

The Multivator consists of individual tillage heads mounted to a toolbar with just two bolts so they can be easily adjusted to match various row or bed configurations. A hexagonal bar drives all heads from a single gearbox. Each head floats independently over uneven ground with down pressure adjusted to match varying soil conditions.

Frame height is maintained by two adjustable guide wheels. The entire unit mounts



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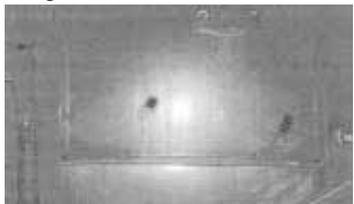
on a tractor with either a Cat. 1 or 2 3-pt. hitch and is driven by a 540 rpm pto shaft.

The Multivator is available in multiple configurations with frame widths ranging from 66 to 158 in. (or greater by special order). Individual tiller head widths can vary from 7 to 10 in. on the smallest head to 28 to 32 in. on the largest unit.

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Ground clearance also varies by unit from 16 in. under the drive shaft on the smaller units to 32 in. on larger units operated on high clearance tractors. Optional equipment includes fertilizer hoppers, ridger assemblies and steering guides. Prices range from several thousand to \$15,000 or more with customization.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mitchell Eqpt., 10784 Industrial Parkway, Marysville, Ohio 43040 (ph 614 873-4620).



"Cam It" device makes it easy to change over the chopper stationary plate on Case-IH combines. (Photo shows combine without Cam It.)

## Easy Change-Over Device For Case-IH Combines

"I came up with the idea to make it easy to switch from corn to beans," says Gary Ling, Round Lake, Minn., about his "Cam It" device for changing over the chopper stationary plate on Case-IH combines.

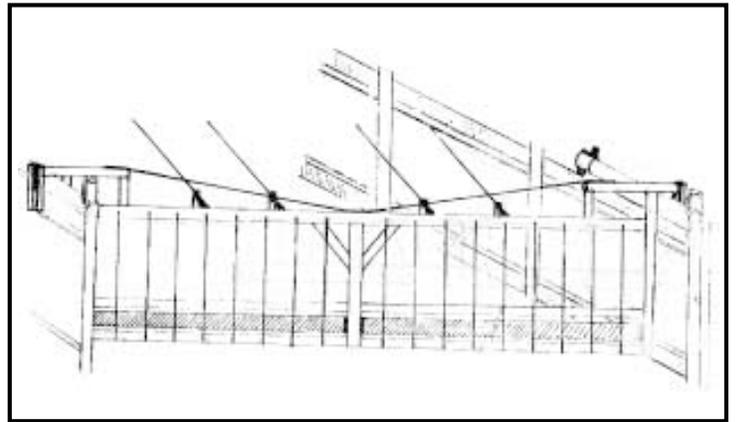
Once installed, there's no need for screwdrivers, punches or pry bars to make the switch. You just loosen two bolts per side, turn the cam, and tighten it back down.



To make the change you just loosen two bolts per side, turn the cam, and tighten it back down.

"Cam It" fits all Case-IH combines with 4-bolt stationary chopper plates. Sells for \$50 per pair (two are needed per machine), shipping included. Model 1400's need an additional piece.

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Swinging gate is fitted with prongs along the top that knock hay or silage loose as cattle work up against it.

## "Automatic" Feeder Knocks Silage, Hay Loose

"It used to take four and a half hours a day to feed my cows. Now it takes no more than a half hour," says Todd Amthor who came up with a new low-maintenance automatic hay and silage feeder.

The feeder consists of a swinging gate fitted with "prongs" that automatically knock hay or silage loose.

The Swift Current, Sask., rancher loads 80 2,000-lb. round bales, processed with a tub grinder, into the 30-ft. wide by 60-ft. long feed area. "That's enough to feed 100 to 120 cows for a month to six weeks," he says.

The main frame of the 66-in. high swinging gate is made out of 3 1/2-in. dia. drill stem. It's suspended by hooks at either end that hang from rails along the side of the feed area. The gate slides back and forth freely.

There are four equally spaced 6-ft. long, 7/8-in. dia. prongs made out of sucker rod on the top of the gate. They knock hay loose as cattle push inward, rocking the gate in and out.

"A bolt-and-slide stop on the side of the gates controls feed rate by moving the gate in along the frame as the pile gets eaten. Besides manure management, all you do is reset the stops on the gates every three or four days and the feeder does the rest," says Amthor.

Amthor has patented the design and hopes to be building both larger and smaller versions of the self feeder soon.

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Photo courtesy American Crystal fieldman John Halland

Mud from rear wheels often covered the tail lights on Barry Malme's truck. To solve the problem he mounted an extra pair of tail lights 5 ft. up from the original ones.

## "Up-High" Tail Lights On Truck Stay Out Of The Mud

Barry Malme of Shelly, Minn., uses his White triple-axle truck to haul beets and grain. The truck often has to drive through wet, muddy fields which poses a problem — mud from the rear wheels often covers the truck's tail lights. To solve the problem, he mounted an extra pair of tail lights 5 ft. up from the original ones.

"They're highly visible and really make a difference in wet, muddy conditions," says Malme, who gives credit for the idea to custom hauler J.J. Alsop of Fargo, N. Dak. Alsop mounted the add-on tail lights while setting

up the truck with a new 20-ft. long, 6-ft. high box. He had the box manufacturer weld an angle iron bracket onto each side of the box and mounted the lights in them. He then ran electric wires up from the existing tail lights to the elevated ones.

"I bought the tail lights at an auto parts store for \$50. At night the two sets of lights look like a smiley face," notes Malme.

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