

me change the seeding rate for any crop from the tractor cab on-the-go, adapting to different soil types without ever getting off the tractor. I mounted it on my 9-row 22-in. planter which I converted from a Kinze 6-row, 30-in. model.

Key to the system is a hydraulic-driven, variable speed drive pulley off an old Gleaner combine. It mounts on the toolbar, connecting to the chain cogs that drive the planter units. Agritronix Corporation of Franklin, Ind., was very helpful updating and programming our monitor with a special chip to record the population every 20 ft. instead of every 50 ft. A faster read-out was needed because you are changing plant population in a relatively short distance.

Compared to actually getting off the tractor and switching cogs on the planter to change your population, the time saved is phenomenal. With this variable seeding rate, populations can be changed immediately.

This unit will save money in seed cost, approximately 3 percent per acre. A GPS system would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. This variable seeding rate unit cost about \$200 to \$400. Most farmers already have a monitor which could be updated to record the population change faster. If a new monitor is needed the cost would be about \$2,000 for the monitor. Figuring corn at \$2 a bushel, it's possible to net \$16 more per acre. **(Edward Huffmeyer, 365E County Road 700S, Greensburg, Indiana 47240 ph 812 663-8607)**

My Ford 3/4-ton extended cab, short bed pickup needs a little extra traction at



times during the winter. I put a spare tube from a 16.9 by 28 rear tractor tire in the bed, then used a garden hose to fill it with water. When full of water it weighs about 400 lbs. The extra weight makes a big difference in traction. But the really nice thing is that it doesn't bounce around and make noise or nick up the bed like a concrete block or a piece of steel does. The tube takes up quite a bit of space but we don't get that much snow and ice here so normally I have to use it only about a half dozen days each winter. It doesn't matter if the water in the tube freezes because the rubber will expand. When I'm done using it I simply drain the water out.

To connect the garden hose to the tube I bought an inexpensive adapter valve and screwed it onto the hose. It's the same kind of valve that you use to put calcium in rear tractor tires. I had to remove the valve in the stem so water could pass through. **(Merle W. Black, 311 Leslie Rd., Valencia, Pa. 16059 ph 724 898-2609)**

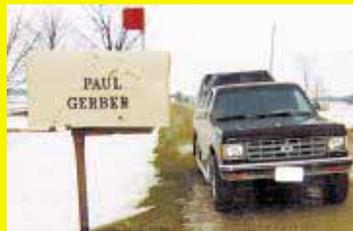
I was standing in front of my son Roy's garage one day a couple of years ago when I saw this unusual sight – a barn within a barn'. It's definitely one of those things you don't see every day. The

nearby barn had both its east and west doors open so I could clearly see another barn framed in the doorway, as if it was a painting. The nearby barn is owned by



Bill Watson. The distant one belongs to Nancy VanGilder. The VanGilder barn is more than 3,800 ft. from my son's garage while the Watson barn is a little more than 1,000 ft. away. Both barns are at least 80 years old. A telephoto lens was used to take the photo. **(Bill Crofoot, 7000 Layton Rd. W., Fowlerville, Mich. 48836 ph 517 223-9083)**

After my mailbox was stolen I decided to make it difficult for the next thief. I used an old 200-gal. oil tank to make a giant-sized mailbox that measures 5 ft. long and 4 ft. high. The flag on it stands 4 1/2



ft. high. I made it by cutting the bottom half of the tank off, then bolting an angle iron frame to both sides of the tank. I attached a piece of plywood to the bottom. I bolted the big mailbox to the top of a 4-in. dia. steel pipe that's anchored in a cement block under the ground. I cut a 1 1/2-ft. sq. hole into one end of the tank and used a hinged steel plate to make the door.

I tell people that I had to build it because we get a lot of big bills. But they tell me I built it because I have so many big checks coming in. Anyway, the mail looks pretty small inside it. Junk mail tends to get blown into the back corners of the box. To clean the box out I just put my 5-year-old boy inside. **(Paul Gerber, Rt. 1, Gadshill, Ontario, Canada NOK 1J0 ph 519 656-3424)**

We've been building lightweight "floating" spray rigs for years and displayed a mini-floater at the recent Farm Progress Show near Amana, Iowa. It was hitched to a Geo Tracker. The Geo Tracker is ideal because it will straddle four 15-in. rows. We cut down the wheel hubs and installed narrow tires to fit between the rows. There's a lot of interest in 15-in. rows because Roundup Ready seed is high priced and new planters do a better job of placing the seed precisely.

With the Geo Tracker, you get the creature comfort of a pickup and the floating capability of an ATV. The mini floater, which is equipped with a drawbar hitch (standard), is available with either a 50 or 60-ft. boom and either 150 or 200-gal. tank. **(Jeff Mick, JM Innovations Inc., 9304 Hess Road, Edwardsville, Ill. 62025 ph 618 667-6089; fax 0024).**

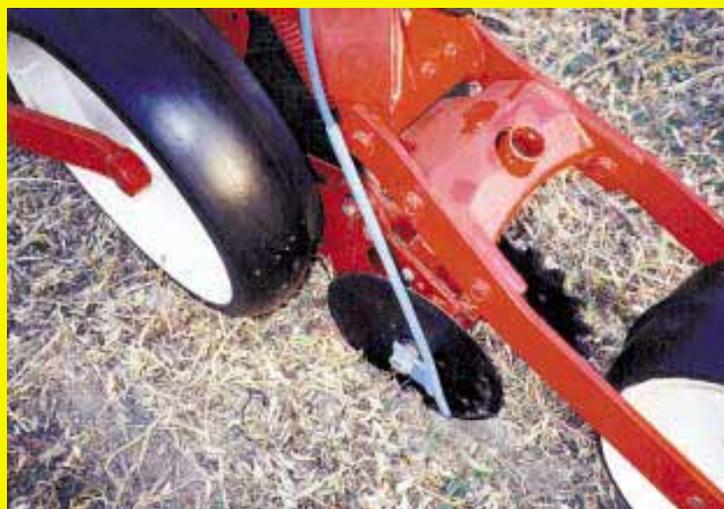


My brother John and I recently finished converting an International 303 self-propelled combine into a round bale hauler. We bought the combine from Jim Streeter of Shell Lake, Wis., who had already started work on the project. We call it the Streeter 303 special.

We use it to haul 1,000 to 1,200-lb. bales off the field. We make about 1,000 round bales a year for our beef cattle so it gets a lot of use. The big glass window up front provides a great view. We had been using an Oliver 1655 tractor equipped with a front-end loader but it was slow and cumbersome and the loader was built too light for our needs. Before we built this bale handler, we looked at skid steer loaders but felt we couldn't justify the cost. We paid \$375



for the combine which is equipped with tilting bale forks on front. The bale forks are operated by an extra hydraulic valve that runs off the combine's hydraulic pump which used to operate the header. It can load bales one high on a trailer. **(Thomas Biver, 24684 King Road, Spooner, Wis. 54801 ph 715 635-2851)**



We're excited about our new Liquid Fertilizer Placement Disc for Case-IH planters equipped with offset closing discs (800 Series and newer).

The kit includes a 9-in. blade assembly and metal tube - one per row. The blade bolts to the existing factory-cast bracket. No planter alteration is needed.

It places liquid fertilizer to the side of the seed trench, just below the seed. This allows the use of higher rates or even salt-based fertilizers without germination burn, while maintaining the benefits of fertilizer in the root zone for increased yields.

We are working to have units available in the next few weeks. We ran prototypes last spring on a 12-row 900 Series

planter over about 1,200 acres of mostly no-till. The farmer who ran the planter was well-satisfied with the performance of our system.

If you already have liquid fertilizer on your planter, our unit can be adapted to various pumps and plumbing.

Our disc replaces the lead closing blade on the planter while the other disc stays in place. Our disc closes the seed trench as it opens another trench to the side, placing fertilizer 1 1/2 in. to the side and 1 1/2 to 2 in. deep. No pressure is required to inject fertilizer into the slot.

This system sells for \$39 per row. **(Jeff Schultz, J.S. Ag Innovations Inc., RR 2, Box 125C, Ewing, Mo. 63440 ph 800-400-2610 or 573-494-3698).**