

One Pass Seeder Saves Time and Money

Brent Pidgurski knows that time is money, especially when it comes to field work. That's why he considered buying a new \$60,000 triple tank air drill that would allow him to apply nitrogen and seed in a single pass.

After mulling it over, however, the Buchanan, Sask. farmer opted instead for a home-built system that ended up costing him only about \$5,000. He bought a used John Deere 665 air tank to hold dry fertilizer and pulls it directly behind the tractor. His 42-ft. field cultivator trails the 665 and a John Deere 775 air tank, loaded with seed and starter fertilizer, trails the field cultivator.

In the three years since he put the new system to work, fuel savings alone have more than paid for it, says Pidgurski.

"I was looking for a way to increase my available time for seeding," he recalls. "On a good day, I can now seed and fertilize over 200 acres."

Pidgurski selected the 665 for its rugged construction. The only modification he had

to make was to build a swivel hitch on the 665 strong enough to pull both the field cultivator and the second air tank. The first step was to remove the clevis from the field cultivator hitch and replace it with a 2 by 4-in. rectangular steel beam to extend the reach of the hitch. The beam was bolted to the cultivator hitch arms and attached to the rear frame hitch of the 665 with a simple drop pin. The existing hitch on the 665 was also modified. Pidgurski reinforced the simple round shaft that extended from the frame with heavy rolled pipe. This allows the beam to swivel from side to side as the cultivator flexes over uneven terrain.

"With this system, I can vary the N supply as required for a given field," says Pidgurski. "I have two separate meters in the cab, one for each unit, and can shut one off or adjust the flow on the go."

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6-Row White Planter Converted To 11-Row No-Till Model

Len Knipstein, Fort Wayne, Ind., converted his White 5100 6-row, 30-in. planter to plant 6 rows of corn in 30-in. rows or 11 rows of soybeans in 15-in. rows.

"I made the conversion because I wanted one planter that I could use to plant both my corn and beans in no-till conditions. The original planter wasn't built heavy enough for no-till, and it had dry fertilizer boxes instead of liquid," says Knipstein.

He stripped the planter down and kept only the row units, blower, hitch, and lift assist wheels. He used 5 by 7-in. tubing to build a second toolbar, then bought 5 more used row units equipped with Yetter no-till coulters and mounted them on it. The planter was originally equipped with three 100-gal. liquid fertilizer tanks mounted crosswise on front. He replaced them with a new single 300-gal. tank and also added a liquid fertilizer pump.

To plant corn he simply locks 5 row units up out of the way.

"We use it to plant soybeans directly into untouched corn stalks," says Knipstein. "At

first corn stalks were a big problem because they would get in the chains and kick them off. I spent 1 1/2 years trying different things to solve the problem. I ended up adding special pulleys and idlers to keep the chains from jumping off.

"I installed new bearings, gauge wheels and disc openers on all the row units and totally rebuilt everything so that the planter is in 'like new' condition. I spent about \$15,000 on the project. White sells a similar twin frame planter that sells for about \$46,000 so I saved a lot of money. Another advantage is that my planter is built much heavier. I used 3/16-in. gauge steel to build the add-on toolbar. The extra weight helps the planter stay in the ground. I also like having a single fertilizer tank instead of three individual ones because there's much better access to the row units. Everything is wide open and nice and easy to work on."

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Liquid Fertilizer Set-Up For Six-Row

By Matt Debisschop

"My dad and I built a liquid fertilizer set-up for our 6-row cultivator that we think many FARM SHOW readers might be interested in," says Matt Debisschop, Middlebury, Vt.

"We came up with the idea because we needed to sidedress our nitrogen and didn't want to buy a new dry fertilizer setup.

"Our planter came equipped for both liquid and dry fertilizer. We decided to keep the dry fertilizer on the planter and put the liquid on the cultivator.

"We took the liquid fertilizer tanks off the planter and put them on the cultivator. We mounted the tanks onto the cultivator with brackets made out of 4 by 8 metal tubing that weld to the frame of the cultivator.

"The fertilizer is put on by a John Blue squeeze pump run by a hydraulic motor driven through the hydraulics from the

tractor. We were going to make it ground driven but were afraid that if the drive wheel dropped into a hole it would stop turning or that it would put down too much or too little fertilizer. We mounted a flow regulator onto the tractor so that the pump will run faster and put out more fertilizer or run slower and put out less fertilizer. This lets us regulate the amount of fertilizer and vary the rate from field to field.

"The tanks have a quick-fill setup. We have a 1,500-gal. tank on a gooseneck trailer that we can move around behind a truck or tractor. A gas engine pumps fertilizer from the big tank to all three tanks at one time. It takes just 2 min. to fill all the tanks at once."

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Pidgurski's home-built seeding system, which includes two Deere air tanks, ended up costing him only about \$5,000.



A Deere 665 air tank, pulled directly behind tractor, is used to hold dry fertilizer.



Knipstein converted his White 5100 6-row, 30-in. planter to plant 6 rows of corn in 30-in. rows or 11 rows of soybeans in 15-in. rows.



Debisschop kept the dry fertilizer setup on his planter and used homemade brackets to mount liquid fertilizer tanks on his 6-row cultivator.