

Two Salvaged Planters Combined to Make One Great Bean Planter

Dan Beer wanted to plant soybeans in narrow rows but he couldn't justify the cost of an expensive new planter or drill.

So, the Syracuse, Indiana farmer, hunted around for some older planters he could rebuild into a narrow row bean planter.

He started with a 12-row rigid frame Deere 7000 planter that he bought for \$4,500.

Then he bought a 6-row 7000 Conservation planter that was in really bad shape for just \$1,000. "It was a real bargain, but the planting units needed a lot of work. What I really wanted was the 7 by 7 toolbar and the 4 heavy-duty lift cylinders that were on it," he says.

He took all the wheels and slave cylinders off the 12-row bar and then cut off the ends so it was the right length for a regular 8-row planter. Then he welded the pieces he'd cut off onto the bar of the second planter and then trimmed the ends so both bars were the same length.

Then he mounted one bar 4 ft. behind the other by welding a 4 ft. section of 8 by 2 in. tubing from an old trailer frame on each end.

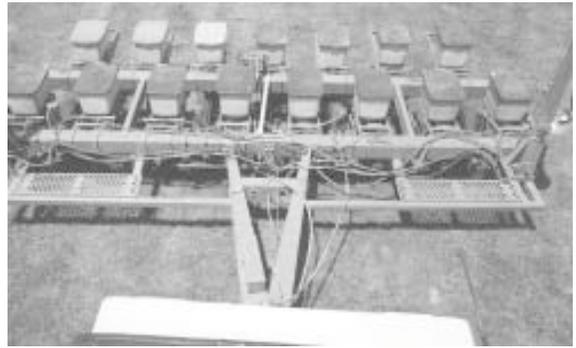
Then he put several lengths of 2 by 2 square tubing between the front and back bars for support and spacing.

He rebuilt 15 of the planter units to like-new condition and mounted 8 units on the front bar and 7 on the rear, offsetting them 15 in.

He put the lift wheels and cylinders from the conservation planter on the front bar. When the planter is raised, the rigidly fastened rear toolbar raises a little higher in the air than the front bar, but he says this is no problem. "It's a little heavy in the back, but I use spacers on the hitch clevis to keep it from bouncing," he says.

Powering the rear bar was a bit of a problem, since there were no wheels left on it. "We extended the shaft that drives the front bar and put an identical sprocket on the end. A chain from that turns the drive for the back bar. I had to offset the back drive by 15 in. from the front one," he says.

A row marker was a bit of a problem. He had a 6-row marker on the conservation



Rather than buying a new planter to plant soybeans in narrow rows, Dan Beer rebuilt some older planters to come up with this model. His total cost was only about \$8,500.

three of those on the planter, too.

Rather than buying a new planter monitor, Beer just hooked up the one that came with the 12 row planter. "I have three rows that aren't monitored, but so far, it hasn't been a problem," he says.

Beer figures he has about \$8,500 tied up in the planter. Rebuilding the planter units using the Deere radial bean meter was one of his biggest expenses. He's used it for two seasons now and is pleased with how well it performs.

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HCS furrow-closing wheels replace the original closing wheel with two independent arms, each holding a spoked wheel.

New-Style Furrow-Closing Wheels For No-Till Planters And Drills

New furrow-closing wheels for no-till planters and drills result in gentle but consistent furrow closing, says Exapta Solutions, Salina, Kan.

The new HCS system slices and crumbles the sidewall instead of squeezing it. The result is better seedling emergence and also better root growth through the sidewalls, says the company.

On planters, the system replaces the original closing wheel with two independent arms, each holding a spoked wheel. The spoked wheels are staggered and set at a 50 degree angle, with the spoke tips hitting the midline of the furrow. Soil crumbles over the seed and the sidewall is shattered which allows better root development.

The arms can be adjusted in or out to compensate for spoke wear or misaligned row units. Downpressure springs on each arm keep the wheels engaged with the soil. Since the system doesn't significantly firm the soil, it must be used together with a seed firmer or seed-lock wheel.

Available for most planters including the Deere 7000, 7200, and 1700 series; the White 6000 series; and all Kinze and Case-IH Cyclo



Spoked wheels are staggered and set at a 50 degree angle.

models. Also available for gauge wheel drills including the Deere 750/1850 and 1560/1860; and the Flexi-Coil FSO. Drills require only one wheel per row. Sells for \$230 per row for most planters and \$103 per row for Deere 750 and 1850 drills.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Exapta Solutions, a division of Pinnacle Crop Tech, Inc., Box 952, Salina, Kan. 67402 (ph 785 820-8000).

"We Fix Grain Drills"

"We got into the business of reworking Deere drills when a neighbor asked me to work on his drill. He was disgusted because the drill looked like new but the depth control parts were already worn out," says Mike Schaefer of M.S. Industries, who has developed a system of jigs and cutting tools that he says allows him to repair the worn parts to "better than new" condition.

"We can repair the worn parts for less than half as much as it would cost to replace them with new ones," says Schaefer. "A lot of people think that when you repair a part it's only half as good as a new part. Our rebuilt depth control assembly will outwear the original factory parts many times over. Some of our repaired drills now have two seasons on them but still show no signs of wear.

Schaefer installs stainless steel wear bushings and other pressed-in parts which eliminate the up and down "play" in the gauge wheel.

"We can repair depth control assemblies on all conventional model Deere grain drills from the 8000 to the 455 series, including



Worn depth control assemblies show three points of wear - side plates; steel bushings and adjustable pin; and press wheel adjustable arm.

air seeders. We don't work on no-till drills or drills that run on press wheels," notes Schaefer.

MSI's repair parts sell for right at \$45 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MSI Industries, Box 544, Okarche, Okla. 73762 (ph 405 263-7909; Website: www.wefixdrills.com).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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"Made It Myself"