

"Super Cultivator" Uses TV To Find Weeds

Watching yourself cultivate a field on closed circuit television may sound like modern electronic gadgetry, but for an Iowa farmer it's a unique farm management tool.

John Jensen, of Ankeny, uses a closed circuit TV set as a part of his "super cultivator". His total weed control equipment consists of the basic cultivator, standard spray nozzles, drop nozzles, and a handgun all mounted on a folding Orthman toolbar.

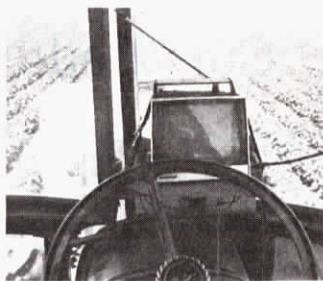
A television camera with a wide angle lens looks out on the field ahead of the cultivation rig. It spots weed problems, then projects them on the TV screen located inside the tractor cab. Jensen can flick electronic controls to turn on 4, 8, or 12 rows of nozzles to apply chemicals where he needs them. On the edge of the field or along roadsides, he can spray hard-to-reach places with the handgun operated manually or automatically.

Jensen put together his cultivator rig himself, which consists of four basic 6-nozzle disk kits mounted on the tool bar.

A high volume Hypro pump (which delivers 120 gal. per minute) and a 500 gal. front-mounted tank make up the rest of the equipment.

All this is mounted on Jensen's 4-wheel drive John Deere 8640 tractor. On this model, the operator sits high enough to see over the tank.

The closed circuit television set is the type used on ships. The wide angle lens of the camera covers three rows, and the image is corrected from its usual reversed position on a monitor.



The television equipment cost about \$750.

Jensen's location in eastern Iowa is ideal for television. He can pick up local stations and watch regular programs when he isn't monitoring weeds in his fields.

Jensen makes another use of closed circuit TV. He puts the camera on the grain wagon so he can see behind him when traveling down the road. And he has other ideas for it:

"I'm going to try to put a camera inside the combine so I can monitor what's happening inside during harvest. If something goes wrong, I'll see it before it causes trouble," he says. He figures that he will need a strong light and probably a fan to keep dust off the camera.

Lots of farmers have looked at, but not many have duplicated it, as far as he knows. The ability to spot-treat weeds in the field, rather than broadcast spraying every acre, has saved a lot of money. In soybeans, the cost has been about one-fourth of what it would be with broadcasting, Jensen points out.

For more details, contact: John Jensen, FARM SHOW Followup, Rt. 1, Ankeny, Iowa 50021 (ph 515 964-1261).

Electric Fence Gate Is Simple, Convenient

Tired of getting off and on vehicles to open gates? Then maybe you should try an electric fence gate like the one designed by Indiana farmer Richard Fiechter, of Craigville.

The gate looks like an electric fence lying flat on the ground. It is a set of 8 or 9 wires attached to a steel angle iron on each end. The wires are placed 4-5 inches apart.

The wire gate is stretched out across the gate opening about 4 inches above the ground. On one end, a spring is attached to keep tension on the wires.

The set of wires is attached to a gate post on either end, and the spring holds it tight just above the ground. It is hooked up to an ordinary electric fence charger. Every time the gate is crossed by a tractor, it shorts out to prevent "shocking" the driver.

At a height of 4 in., cattle will touch the wires and be shocked if they try to cross. Yet, a rubber-tired tractor or implement can drive over the wires without disturbing them. If something metal has to be dragged through, the gate can be unhooked and moved out of the way, and then replaced.

Fiechter finds that it works good, even when ice and snow accumulate, but he suggests keeping the wires clear. He thinks it would work as well for hogs or calves as it works for cattle. As with any electric fence, it does pose hazards to young children.

Farmers can come and see it, or contact him by writing: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Fiechter, Route 1, Box 102, Craigville, Ind. 46731 (ph 219 565-3340).

FARM SHOW

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Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention 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?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor

Turn Your Pickup Into A Convertible

The convertible automobile is back. Even though manufacture of this popular style car ended in 1976, you can still own one.

The convertible is actually a conversion of a small pickup truck. The cab is cut off and replaced with a new convertible top that folds back behind the seat. They call it a Ragtime Mini.

"It makes a sharp little car that looks like some of the old convertibles," says Cal Brooks, manager of the plant that does the conversion. "The convertible tops are manufactured by a California company, and we have the franchise to put them on trucks."

The tops can be selected from a choice of black, white, blue or tan. They fit a variety of makes and models of mini-pickups. Chevrolet Luvs and Datsuns back to 1972 can be converted. Mazda, 1977 models, and 1979 Toyota and Arrow models can also be converted.

The convertible tops sell for \$795, including installation, if



the truck is brought in for the work. However, there is a do-it-yourself kit that sells for \$595. Brooks says that a "handy" man can do it if he has a cutting torch to remove the cab. There is no welding required.

The regulations for roll-over protection in cars do not apply to trucks, Brooks says.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Little Schafer's, 133 Brown St., Evansdale, Iowa 50707 (ph 319 233-8127).