

Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher

Welcome To FARM SHOW!

If this is your first issue of FARM SHOW, welcome! You've just become a member of one of the most innovative groups of farm readers anywhere. We now have more than 170,000 paid subscribers in the U.S., Canada, and around the world, all of whom are interested in reading about latest new products, inventions and ideas born in farm shops. When there's a new machine in agriculture, chances are it was developed by one of our readers.

Do you have a new idea we should look at? If so, send it in or give us a call at: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; email: editor@farmshow.com).

Thanks for subscribing. Enjoy!

FARM SHOW's New Writer

Ben Schleuss recently joined the staff of FARM SHOW. Ben grew up in Maple Grove, Minn., and is a recent graduate of St. Olaf College. He served as editor of his college newspaper and is quickly learning the excitement of "the hunt" for new inventions and ideas in farm shops all over North America, Europe and around the world. We're breaking him in fast. For example, he recently returned from a trip to the Agritechnica farm show in Germany, one of the world's biggest shows. You can read his report on page 16 of this issue.



If you spot Ben at a show, please stop him and let him know about any new ideas you or a neighbor might be working on, or give him a call at 800 834-9665. Welcome Ben.



Four combines from the new threshing ring harvested a field of one of the members last fall in central Illinois.

An Old Idea Reborn

Last fall we took a picture of a bunch of combines harvesting a field near Effingham, Ill. It looked like a group of neighbors might have come together to help an injured friend.

But when we checked into it, we learned that it was actually a modern version of an old-time threshing ring. Working together, seven neighbors have formed a ring to harvest soybeans. It's an idea that gets harvesting done at peak time.

Roger and Bruce Elliott, Montrose, Ill., came up with the idea. During the off season, their farm shop serves as a meeting place where new ideas are often hatched. A couple years ago, conversation turned to Freddie Stirewalt's seed soybeans. It so happened that his beans were ready for harvest, but the Elliott Brothers' seed beans were not.

So, the idea came up: "Let's go down and combine Freddie's beans." They did, and later they took care of the

Elliott beans. Everyone liked the way it worked out.

"It saved time for both of us, and it helped yields because we could work when the moisture was right. Soybean moisture needs to be between 11 and 14 percent. If we cut beans by ourselves, we could fall out of that window," says Roger.

Seeing what was happening, neighbors Ronnie, Mark, and Paul Schottman of Wheeler, Ill., wanted to join in. They also raise seed beans, so all six men arranged to plant varieties with staggered maturities that wouldn't all ripen at the same time. Later, Dick Bushue of Teutopolis, Ill., joined in, too. He doesn't grow seed beans but he coordinates planting with the other harvest partners.

The threshing ring runs four machines - two Case IH 6080's, a Case IH 1660, and a Gleaner R62. The Elliotts have a few more acres than the others so they provide two 800-bu. semis and a grain cart. The machines have to be thoroughly vacuumed out when changing bean varieties. It takes about two hours to clean the four combines.

One of the best aspects of the threshing ring is that when a mechanical problem develops they can pull out a machine for repairs while the other combines keep going.

Everything considered, all seven farmers give the combine ring a thumbs up.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger and Bruce Elliott, 19478 North 400 St., Montrose, Ill. 62445 (ph 217 924-4350).



Mini combine's header and unloading auger work like the real thing.

Engineer Shrinks Combine

When it comes to combines, not too many people have a better track record than Alan VanNahmen, Columbus, Ind. During his career as an ag engineer, Alan has worked on several combine "firsts" including Deere's 6620's in 1978, Claas 228CS mobil-trac track combines in 1990, the revolutionary Bi-Rotor combine in Kansas in 1993, and the Cat Lexion combines in 1999 in Nebraska.

Recently, Alan decided to "downsize" the modern combine, building a 1/4 scale Deere STS that looks so real some people ask if it's in production. The mini machine has a working header and a swing-out auger.

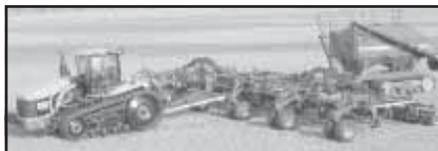


Mini combine mounts on mower.

He built the combine on the frame of a Deere front-mount mower, using 1-in. square tubing for the frame, pvc pipe for the unloading auger tube, and 1/8-in. poly for the skin.

In December, Alan took the combine to a Christmas parade and it was a big hit with an animated monkey in the driver seat that was wired to wave, steer and wiggle his ears. The actual driver sat in the grain tank wearing a large grain-covered straw hat so it looked like the tank was full of grain. Alan's producing ready-to-assemble kits for anyone wanting to build their own mini combine. He can also provide Cat Lexion and Case AFX 8010 versions.

Contact: Alan VanNahmen, FarmBuddy Co., Box 647, Columbus, Ind. 47201 (ph 812 342-7608).



Anderson planted 1,425 acres with this air planter in just 24 hours. It features his paired-row planting boot.

World Record Planter

Big farmers just keep getting bigger, and so does their equipment. No one demonstrates that better than Kevin Anderson, Andover, S. Dak., who set a world record last spring when he planted 1,425 acres of wheat in just 24 hours using a \$200,000 planter pulled by a \$200,000 Cat Challenger.

The 60-ft., 24-row Horsch-Anderson planter was fitted with a 500-bu. tank and a Beeline auto guidance system, and it was filled by a high-speed tender. The air planter plants paired rows 15 in. on center, with openers arranged in four ranks to allow maximum clearance for planting in residue.

One key to success of the planter is the opener, which Anderson designed himself. He has been working at perfecting paired row planting for corn and other row crops for several years. With this opener, he can place seed in a diamond pattern in paired rows 8 in. apart and 30 in. on center. This means the paired rows can be harvested with existing combine headers.

Anderson's paired row opener is designed to place fertilizer between the paired rows about 2 in. below the seed. He can also use a knife to place anhydrous safely below the seed. Besides the unique opener, Anderson also uses floating discs with no down pressure as closers and firms soil over the row with lugged tires rather than smooth ones. A coultter cutting attachment is available for use in no-till.

Anderson sells the Horsch system, which comes from Germany, or he can retrofit an existing planter with his Paired Row Openers for about \$120.00 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kevin Anderson, Horsch Anderson, 11118 414th Ave., Andover, S.Dak. 57422 (ph 605 298-5663; email: kanderson@nvc.net; website: www.horschanderson.com).

Words Of Wisdom

- Dig your neighbor out of his troubles and you find a place to bury your own.
- When you stop to think, don't forget to start again.
- A face without a smile is like a lantern without a light.
- Today is the tomorrow that you worried about yesterday.
- There are three kinds of people: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who have no idea what happened.
- It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice.

Liberty Quotes

"Nothing is more despicable than respect based on fear."
Albert Camus

"It behooves every man who values liberty of conscience for himself to resist invasions of it in the case of others."
Thomas Jefferson

"God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it."
Daniel Webster

"The only thing that saves us from bureaucracy is its inefficiency."
Eugene McCarthy

"I think the world is run by 'C' students."
Al McGuire

"The man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest."
Henry David Thoreau

"How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."
Abraham Lincoln

"You are going to let the fear of poverty govern your life and your reward will be that you will eat, but you will not live."
George Bernard Shaw

One Sunday morning, the minister noticed little Johnny staring up at the large plaque in the foyer of the church that was covered with names, small American flags mounted on either side.

The minister walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Johnny."

"Good morning, sir," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Can you tell me what this is?"

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Johnny's voice was barely audible, trembling with fear, when he asked, "Which service - the 8:15 or the 10:30?"

An older couple was lying in bed one night. The husband was falling asleep but the wife was in a romantic mood and wanted to talk.

She said, "You used to hold my hand when we were courting."

Wearily he reached across, held her hand for a second and tried to get back to sleep.

A few moments later she said, "Then you used to kiss me." Mildly irritated, he reached across, gave her a peck on the cheek, and settled down to sleep.

Thirty seconds later she said, "Then you used to bite my neck."

Angrily, he threw back the bed clothes and got out of bed. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"To get my teeth."