



Liquid fertilizer cart was built from the frame of an old C2 Gleaner combine. Big flotation tires on the rear axle minimize compaction.

Trailing Fertilizer Tank Saves Time At Planting

When Bill and Bob Myers, Oregon, Ohio, got tired of stopping to fill the liquid fertilizer tanks on their planter, they put together a floater cart they could tow behind the planter.

Long time no-tillers, the Myers apply all of their nitrogen at planting. They had been using small starter fertilizer tanks on their planter to put on 65 gal. of 28 percent liquid nitrogen per acre.

The fertilizer trailer was built from the frame of an old C2 Gleaner combine. "Everything but the frame went to the scrap yard," Bob says.

They turned the frame upside down and put the steering wheels up front. They extended the frame to hold the 1,100-gal. tank and attached a long tongue on front that attaches to the steering axle. "The frame is made of 2 by 6-in. steel tubing and is welded in place so the top is flush with the rear axle. It extends about 4 ft. behind the axle so there's more weight on the back axle," Bob says.

To mount the tank on the frame, they made some saddle brackets and then strapped it on with steel bands in the front, center and rear of the tank.

The tongue is also made out of 2 by 6 steel tubing. It's 16 ft. long and attaches to the tie rods on the old frame's steering axle, so it trails well behind the planter, following closely on tight turns at the end of the field.

"At 16 ft., you can almost turn back into the same tracks without a problem," Bill says.

The Myers brothers use the liquid fertilizer pump on their planter to pump 28 percent liquid nitrogen from the tank to the planter.

To minimize compaction, the men used big flotation tires on the rear axle.

"When we used just the four small tanks on the planter for nitrogen, we were always stopping to fill them. When they were full, their weight caused the planter to run deeper. As the tanks emptied, it ran shallower," Bob tells.

"Now, we fill the tanks with liquid fertilizer and set the planting depth accordingly. We use the fertilizer from the trailer only, so the planter weight never varies," he continues. At 65 gal. per acre, the 1100 gal. tank on the trailer allows them to cover 16 acres before they have to stop to refill, saving them a lot of time.

They paid \$125 for the old tank at a salvage yard and spend roughly \$80 for new steel and parts, so the total cost of the project, excluding their time in putting it together, was just over \$200.

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Deere Planter Does Double Duty As Strip-Till Rig

"It lets us strip-till without the expense of a separate machine," says Jeff Martin, Mt. Pulaski, Ill., who uses his 16-row Deere 7200 MaxEmerge planter to strip till into corn and soybean residue during the fall. Jeff farms with his son Doug and brother Tom.

The planter is equipped with Yetter Row Manager row cleaners, which consist of pairs of intersecting wheels. To convert the planter to strip till, the Martins simply remove the seed boxes and disc openers and also lift the closing wheels up out of the way, locking them in place. The row cleaners shave residue off the soil and throw it out of the row zone, leaving a cleanly tilled, 9-in. wide strip.

"It makes a nice, clean seedbed that dries out and warms up nicely when we plant into it the following spring," says Jeff. "We can buzz through fields at 8 to 9 mph and clear rows on up to 300 acres per day. We use our Deere 4440 2-WD tractor to pull it.

"Using a planter to strip-till is such a simple

idea that a lot of people don't think it could work, but it does. We had been using a modified Deere 7000 planter toolbar as a strip-till rig to go with our 12-row planter, but when we traded up to a 16-row planter we needed to do something different. Many farmers apply anhydrous ammonia as they strip till during the fall, but we didn't want to do that because much of our soil is so wet that a lot of nitrogen would be lost. We've also used the planter to strip-till on sloping ground during the spring, just ahead of planting."

Jeff says you can experiment with this system on a few acres without spending any money. "Just raise the planter high enough that the disc openers skim the soil, which will allow the row cleaners to shave off residue."

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The 3-pt. mounted Mity Dump makes it easy to haul and dump everything from feed to firewood. It's available in several different models.

Tractor-Mounted 3-Pt. "Dump Box"

"It's easy to maneuver and lets you work in areas that are too small to get into with a pickup or trailer," says Gerald Conway about his new 3-pt. mounted dump box that makes it easy to haul and dump everything from feed to firewood.

The Mity Dump mounts on steel skids and comes with a mesh screen headboard and a 2-in. thick wooden tail board that can be removed for loading or unloading. The tailboard stores up against the headboard when not in use. The box is equipped with adjustable screened sideboards that can be set at four different positions depending on what you're hauling: straight up; at a 45 degree angle; straight out; or straight down.

A hydraulic cylinder dumps the box. A mechanical dump model is also available.

"It's much handier to use than a trailer because it's so much easier to back up and maneuver. It also costs considerably less than most trailers," says Conway.

"To load the unit you lower the skids to the ground. During transport, the skids can be just above the soil surface if you have a heavy load."

Available in four different models. The smallest model measures 4 ft. long and wide and is recommended for tractors from 18 to



Unit mounts on steel skids. Sideboards can be folded up, down, or pointing straight out to the sides.

60 hp. The mechanical dump version of this model sells for \$690; hydraulic dump, \$740. The biggest model measures 5 ft. long by 8 ft. wide and is recommended for tractors with 100 hp and up. It comes with hydraulic dump only and sells for \$1,885.

A pair of towable models are also available.

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Jeff Martin uses his 16-row Deere 7200 Max Emerge planter to strip-till through corn and soybean residue.



Yetter row cleaners throw residue out of the row zone, leaving a cleanly tilled, 9-in. wide strip.