THE SECRET IS A LONGER STROKE

Sickle Kit For Combines Doubles Cutting Speeds

"Operators are telling us the cutterbars on their new combines and swathers are cutting worse than ever," says Max Farrar, manufacturer of a sickle drive kit that he says doubles the life of the cutterbar, and lets you operate the combine at faster travel speeds.

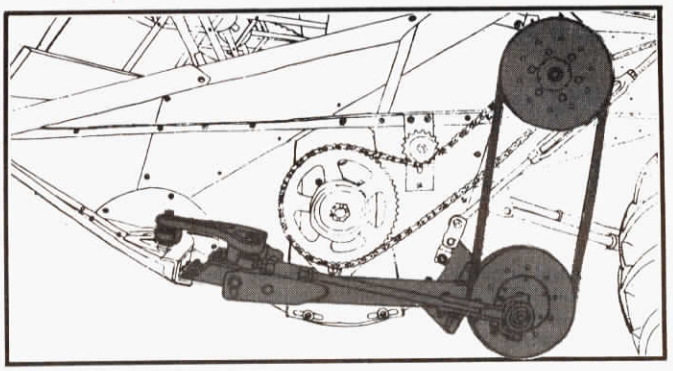
Farrar's kits fit virtually any combine or swather, essentially lengthening the stroke of the cutterbar and slowing the speed, the opposite of what most manufacturers are doing.

"Because of the high cutting speeds, most cutterbars do the bulk of their cutting at the tip of the blade rather than uniformly across the whole blade. You can see that on any worn sickle section," explains Farrar.

He says his sickle kit solves the problem by lengthening the sickle stroke about ⅜ in., sending the tip of each blade past the center of each guard before pulling back the other way. He also slows down the speed, to around 400 rpm on some models.

"After our kit is installed, you'll get more grain into the blade at faster ground speeds and it'll cut sharper and cleaner. And, because the wear will be much more even on each section, sickles last an average of twice as long. You'll pay for the kit the first time you don't have to replace the sickle," says Farrar. "Besides that, the sickle kit will help save grain. And, there's less strain on the sickle bar and drive parts because there's no load on the sickle at the ends of the sickle stroke. Some owners tell us it doubled their cutting speed."

Farrar first had the idea for his "over-registered" sickle in the early sixties when Deere's sickle mower had a similar cutting action. "The problem is that if sickle blades don't wear out manufacturers don't get to sell parts and that's a big part of their business. So far, as I know, no combine or swather manufacturer builds an over-registered sickle bar."



Here's how Farrar's over-register sickle kit adapts to Deere 55 , 95 and 105 combine models.

Farrar has do-it-yourself kits for combines and swathers ranging back 20 years as well as for latest models. Much of his interest has come from dealers. Prices generally run from about $100 to $200, although some require a more or less expensive kit.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farrar Corporation, Max Farrar, Norwich, Kan. 67118 (ph 316 478-2212).

"Stroke Stopper" Cylinder Blocks

One of the "hottest" new items you'll be seeing at fairs and shows this summer is a new aluminum, apple-shaped hydraulic cylinder stroke control device called the "Stroke Stopper".

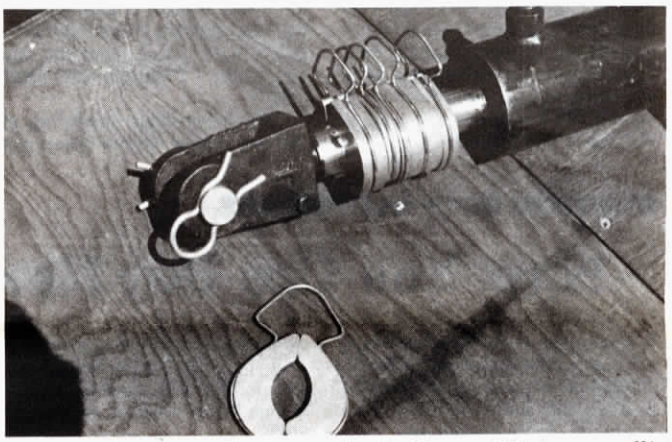
"Other stops are inconvenient — they have to be fastened down some way — or else they're made of cast aluminum or other material that bonds together," says Brant Kollar, manager of Cheney Weeder, Spokane, Wash., the manufacturer. "These new stops are made of extruded aluminum, which means they're stronger and will not rust or bond together."

Stroke Stoppers have a wire handle that lets you slip them on or off in seconds. This feature is handy, Kollar points out, especially on field disks or cultivators. If field conditions change and length of the cylinder stroke has to be changed, it only takes a second or two to add on or take off Stroke Stoppers.

Standard sizes run from ¼ in. to 8 in. wide, and they're designed for 1 to 1½ in. rods.

A kit of five stops of various sizes sells for $16.95. Stops are available individually, ranging in price from $3.50 to $17.40.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cheney Weeder, Inc., P.O. Box 232, Spokane, Wash. 99210 (ph toll free 800-541-5880, or 800 572-5600 in Washington).



A wire handle lets you slip the new "Stroke Stopper" blocks on or off in seconds.

"Tombstone" Feeder Eliminates Waste

"It's simple to build and reduces waste to almost nothing," says Dave Roth, Pennsylvania dairyman who, with his son, Dave, Jr., operates Milmay Farms near Loysville.

The Roths built a tombstone feeder for their heifers six years ago. "It's one of the best feed-saving ideas we've ever seen. Tombstone feeders have since gotten to be popular with dairymen in this area but apparently are relatively unknown in other areas," Dave, Sr., told FARM SHOW.

A tombstone feeder consists of a series of vertical slots with angled openings at the top in which heifers must place their heads to reach feed on the other side. Forcing animals to lift their heads before they can back away from the manger keeps them from dragging hay, silage or other feed onto the floor where it can be trampled and wasted.

The Roths use the same feeder for heifers of all ages, from 3 months up to two years. The horizontal front of the manger is normally made of two 2 by 6's and a 2 by 8, for a total height of 18 to 20 in. — which even a young calf can reach over.

The vertical tombstones are 3½ ft. high and bolted to the manger front for stability and durability. The horizontal brace holding the upper part of each tombstone together is also bolted in place. Tombstone tips are arrow-pointed but with a flat, blunt point so animals can't injure themselves as they move their heads into the slots. Each slot is 7½ in. wide, and slots are spaced on 24 in. centers. "This spacing is a bit tight for larger animals but doesn't seem to pose any problem," according to Roth. He suggests putting in a vertical support post every fifth tombstone.

If you're feeding only hay in the manger, and keep plenty of hay available, it's not necessary to provide one slot for each animal. However, if you feed grain over the hay, as the Roths do, you'll need one opening for each animal to prevent fighting, and to keep smaller animals from being pushed away.

Three 2 by 6's make up each vertical tombstone. The tombstones (3 ft. high) are arrow pointed to 60°, and spaced on 24 in. centers with a 7.5 in. slot opening between tombstones.