

Combine Planter Still Going Strong

Last spring, Dennis Carney pulled his 1990 New Holland TR86 combine out of the shed and started planting corn, just as he has for the past 16 years. First covered in FARM SHOW back in 1991 (Vol. 15, No. 4), Carney's unique double duty combine is still going strong spring and fall.

"It has worked out real well and lasted longer than I expected," says Carney. "I guess I over-built it. I proved that it really doesn't make any difference to the planter whether it is pushed or pulled through the field".

The key to the concept was the big steel axle found on that particular New Holland machine. Carney needed somewhere heavy-duty to hang his semi-mounted planter. The 12-row Case IH Cyclo no-till air planter weighs in at about 12,000 lbs. In the field, most of that weight is carried by the planter units and four gauge wheels. In transport, however, it is carried by the 10-ft. long, 7 by 7-in. toolbar mounted to the front axle and feederhouse mounting brackets.

To hang the toolbar, Carney first removed the header and feederhouse. Then he cut the rear lift assist wheels from the planter and bolted the lift arms to the new toolbar. A new pair of lift assist wheels attached to the front of the planter provides lift.

The idea to use his combine as a power

source was a reaction to his need for a larger planter. Trading up from a 6-row to the 12-row unit was going to require buying a larger tractor. One large enough at the time would have cost him at least \$50,000. Meanwhile he had his new \$130,000, 185 hp, 6-cylinder diesel powered combine sitting in the shed.

"It had twice as much power as I needed," said Carney. "I turned the governor down so it would run smoother at lower rpms. The combine actually carries less weight up front than it was designed to handle."

An added benefit is clear visibility of the planter and the row units day or night. Trash buildup is easy to watch for, although no-till coulters and trash whippers mounted in front of each row unit reduce that problem. Liquid fertilizer tanks are mounted under the combine cab, and spoke injection wheels are mounted in front of the row units.

Carney moved the hydraulic pump and oil reservoir used to power the air planter blower motors from the planter to the combine. He switched it from pto power to combine power by adding a shaft and sprocket and connecting them to the combine's grain unloading auger drive.

"To activate the pump, I pull the lever that normally runs the grain unloading auger," explains Carney.



Dennis Carney started using his New Holland TR86 combine to plant corn 15 years ago. The double duty combine is still going strong.

The switch that normally controls header height operates the planter's rear hydraulic lift. The reel height control switch operates the planter's front lift cylinders and brings the planter wings to a five-degree float position needed to keep the planter wings rigid. With the planter mounted ahead of the combine, Carney can do away with markers. Once planting is finished, Carney drops the planter in the shed, remounts the cornhead and feederhouse, and he is ready for harvest.

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Soil mixer consists of an old 45-gal. plastic antifreeze drum that serves as the mixing chamber. Barrel is rotated by a 3/4 hp electric motor.

They Made Their Own Soil Mixer

Mixing potting soil on a large scale isn't such a difficult job for Mel Primrose of Westlock, Alberta. He built a soil-mixing unit that uses an old 45-gal. plastic antifreeze drum as its mixing chamber.

Primrose cut a 12 by 12-in. door in the side (which bolts on) and installed sections of light angle iron inside the barrel, which serve as baffles to mix the dirt as the barrel rotates.

He installed a 3/4-in. pipe axle through the center of the barrel, and it sits on a frame made from scrap angle iron. The axle and barrel are turned by a 3/4 hp electric motor, a gear box, and a bicycle drive, which gives him five different speeds to choose from.

The unit works great for creating just the right mix of components for the couple's many flowerpots around their yard. They can use their own topsoil, peat moss, manure, commercial vermiculite and fertilizer as needed.

When in use, the unit sits on top of Primrose's handy little homemade wooden, two-wheel dump wagon. The whole unit lifts off the trailer when not in use, freeing up the trailer for other tasks.

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Jim Iverson no longer has a problem with pheasants eating his popcorn seed. His scarecrow foxes are made from scrap wood and light sheet metal.

False Foxes Put Fear In Pheasants

Pheasants don't wait for popcorn to be popped. They eat it right out of the row, and that bugs Jim Iverson. A researcher for the Crookham Seed Company, Iverson is responsible for evaluating new popcorn varieties. That's tough to do when the seed doesn't even get a chance to germinate.

"Pheasants love the stuff," explains Iverson. "They'll get on a row and eat most of the kernels in it."

In an effort to keep pheasants out of the research plots, he has tried everything from cannons to kites to fire crackers. When he ran across an old shaggy lap robe at a yard sale, he decided to use it to make fox scarecrows. In the end he didn't use the robe.

"I make fox bodies and legs out of scrap wood with a tail and ears out of light sheet metal," says Iverson. "I build the heads up with foam and then carve them back down.

The fur is fiberglass insulation that I staple on and spray red."

Eyes and eye placement is important, he suggests. He buys large plastic eyes from a craft store.

"I think the large eyes mounted down low make the foxes seem more real," says Iverson, who also gives credit to the tail for added realism. "The large tail will wave back and forth with the wind. The foxes are realistic enough that people will stop on the highway to look at them."

Iverson now has nine of the fake foxes, and they seem to be doing the job. Since installing the first one several years ago, he hasn't had problems getting a uniform stand of popcorn.

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