

## “Side Dressing Shield” For Ammonia Applicators

A new “side dressing shield” for anhydrous ammonia applicators lets you apply nitrogen to even the shortest corn crop at fast speeds, without covering it up.

The “Dirt Dog” is designed to mount to the applicator using the same bolt holes as the knives. The shield deflects soil as it comes up the face of the knife, and forces it back down harmlessly between the rows.

Three different models are available. Model one is used to control the flow of the soil. It has no covering capability.

Model two has a covering wing that trails the knife and can bring soil back to cover the knife slot. A covering plate is used to guide the soil. The plate is adjustable up and down and front to back and should run about 2 in. above the untilled soil level. “It works very well in conventional and minimum tillage conditions,” says Miller.

Model three is the same as model two but offers a closing disc as an option to the covering plate. In no-till conditions the rolling disc sealer will handle more trash.

“I like the freedom to be a little sloppy with my steering without having to worry about the double disc sealers tearing out 16 rows of my corn. Dirt Dogs are only 10 1/2 in. wide so you’ve got some room to move,” says Miller.

Model one sells for \$80 per row plus S&H; model two for \$95 plus S&H; and model three for \$115 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Miller, 10916 Catlin-Homer Rd., Catlin, Ill. 61817 (ph 217 304-1109).



“Dirt Dog” is available in three models. Model one (above) is used to control flow of soil but has no covering capability.



Model two has a covering wing that trails the knife and brings soil back to cover the knife slot. A covering plate guides the soil.



Model three is the same as model two but offers a closing disc as an option to the covering plate.



Cultivator is made out of 2 3/4-in. sq. tubing that goes into 3-in. sq. tubing receivers to expand and decrease width of cultivator hydraulically.

## Welder Built Expandable Cultivator For Nursery

With less than \$1,000 worth of new parts, Denny Williams built an expandable cultivator for the 2,000-acre Illinois nursery where he works. Built in 2001, that first custom cultivator still works well.

Williams built it after working with a newly bought commercial cultivator that cost \$5,000. He knew it was a “piece of junk” when it arrived. Built out of lightweight flat steel, he knew it wouldn’t last long, and he told his boss so.

“If you can build one that’s better, go ahead,” the boss told Williams, an experienced welder and fabricator. His cultivator is made out of 2 3/4-in. square tubing that goes into 3-in. square tubing receivers to expand and decrease the width of the cultivator hydraulically. The cultivator front adjusts from 50 to 84 in. wide, and one or both sides can be moved in or out. The width flexibility

is important at a nursery where row widths frequently vary, Williams explains.

He used Deere field cultivator shanks and other new parts and built the cultivator heavy duty enough to handle rough use by hired hands as well as the large rocks in parts of the nursery. He has since built six more of the expandable cultivators. He notes that the biggest challenge is getting the tubing to go all the way in and figuring out where to place the two 24-in. hydraulic stroke cylinders. He used steel line for the hydraulics to make them less susceptible to damage.

Williams’ expandable cultivators dig up to 8 in. and can be pulled with a narrow, 30 hp tractor. Semi-retired in Wisconsin, he is willing to talk to people interested in his design.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Denny Williams, 11319 Tuttle Rd., Trevor, Wis. 53179 (ph 262 960-3668).



Edgar Phillips uses this 8-row, 15-in. Deere 7000 planter which was converted from an 8-row, 30-in. model.

## Cheap Narrow Row Soybean Planter

Old Deere 7000 8 or 12-row, 30-in. planters can be converted to low-cost, 15-in. narrow row soybean planters, says Edgar Phillips, Marshall, Mo. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an 8-row, 15-in. Deere 7000 planter that he bought from a neighbor, who had converted it from an 8-row, 30-in. model.

“I have a small farm and can’t justify large, expensive machinery. This 8-row conversion is just what I needed,” says Phillips. “Old Deere 7000 planters can be bought cheap because they’re rigid, non-folding models that require a trailer for road transport. I’ve used this modified planter for three years and it has worked great. The narrow 15-in. rows have increased my soybean yields by six bushels per acre compared to the 36-in. row planter I had been using.

“The older 7000 series planters aren’t in much demand any more,” says Phillips. “My neighbor had bought the planter from a Deere dealer, where it was rusting away on the lot. A few years after he converted the planter to 15-in. rows, he bought a bigger Kinze skip row planter and sold this model to me for \$2,000. It came equipped with bean meters, which were worth almost as much themselves as what I paid for the entire planter.”

To make the conversion, the planter’s main toolbar was cut off on each end to a 13-ft. length. Then the row units were moved in. The planter’s transmission was originally located on back of the toolbar between the two center row units. With the row units moved in, there wasn’t room for the transmission so it was cut off and welded on top of the toolbar. An idler sprocket or jackshaft

was fabricated below and in front of the transmission in order to drive the transmission from the front.

The planter’s lift wheels and drive wheels were also moved to the front. The seed boxes were originally driven by a wheel on just one side of the planter, which could cause problems with the seeding rate when planting around terraces. The driveshaft system was modified so the seed boxes are now driven from both sides of the planter. That was done by moving the wheel sprocket and drive apparatus from the right outside wheel to the left inside wheel.

When Phillips bought the planter the insecticide boxes on back had already been removed. There wasn’t room to stand between the row units on back in order to load seed into the boxes, and on front the toolbar was in the way. “I had to walk across the top of the planter behind the seed boxes,” says Phillips. To make loading the seed boxes easier, he welded expanded metal platforms behind each seed box, where the planter’s insecticide boxes were originally located. “Now I can lower the planter until the platforms are even with my pickup’s tailgate and walk right onto them from the pickup,” says Phillips. “I can see the row unit components right through the expanded metal. The platforms flex with the row units according to the ground conditions.”

He says he’d be willing to put plans together if there’s enough interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edgar A. Phillips, Rt. 1, Box 196, Marshall, Mo. 65340 (ph 660 886-6130).

## Screw-On Lid Converts Bucket To Air-Tight Container

You can convert 5-gal. plastic buckets to a resealable, air-tight container with this new screw-down lid.

The Snap Gamma Seal Lid works great for storing feed and ag products, as well as food, detergents, animal health supplies, ag chemicals, etc., says Cody Mercantile, Newtown, Ct. It uses a specially designed gasket and a patented sealing system to protect the bucket’s contents from exposure to the environment.

The lid comes in two parts: an “outer rim” that you snap over the rim of the bucket; and a lid that screws onto the outer rim. A rubber grommet inside the lid provides the air-tight seal. No opener is needed, as the lid just screws on and off.

“It’s made from real tough plastic so mice have a hard time chewing through it. And you won’t have to worry about dampness getting into the pail,” says the company.

Available in blue, black, yellow, red or white.

Sells for \$10.95 plus S&H.



Lid comes in two parts: an “outer rim” that you snap over rim of bucket; and a lid that screws onto outer rim.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cody Mercantile, P.O. Box 409, Newtown, Ct. 06470 (ph 800 443-4934; fax 203 304-1147; customerservice@codymercantile.com; www.codymercantile.com).