Build Your Own No-Till Drill

Now you can convert your conventional double disc grain drill — or chisel plow — into a no-till drill.

Acra-Plant, of Garden City, Kan., makes it easy, thanks to just-introduced "Acra-Place" modules which are tailor-made for planting small grain, soybeans and other crops directly into undisturbed stubble, stalks or other heavy-trash with precision accuracy.

"We think conventional drills equipped with our modules will run circles around factory-made no-till drills now on the market," says Bill Ahlers, sales manager. He cites the following key features:

• They’re equipped with 15 in. notched discs which penetrate heavy trash, turn continuously and are self-cleaning, even in sticky soils, without requiring scrapers. Coupled with double down pressure springs, they chew their way through heavy crop residue, and penetrate hard soil, with ease.

• The disc blades are offset so one blade runs slightly ahead of the other, providing a minimum of soil deflection at high field speeds, and clearing a path for the special Acra-Tuff insert.

• This insert wedges a V-slice in moist soil 1 1/2 in. below the cut of the disc, directly in front of the seed tube, assuring maximum soil-to-seed contact for early emergence and better stands.

Ahlers notes that each module is mounted independently with parallel linkage, permitting 8 in. of vertical opener travel. Modules come in a choice of row widths down to 7 in. and are currently available for Great Plains, Tsco, Crust Buster, Marlin and Versatile (Noble) drills. Modules for Deere, International and other drills will be available soon, says Ahlers.

New "Acra-Trac" modules also are available on swivel mounts for converting air seeders or chisel plows into no-till or minimum-till drills. "We supply the swivel modules, leaving the farmer free to rig up his own system for getting seed to the chisel-mounted modules. He may elect to go with a conventional grain box and gravity system, or with an air system," Ahlers points out.

Cost of the modules is $16 per row for conventional drills, and $528 for air seeders and chisel plows.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acra-Plant Sales, P.O. Box 1114, Garden City, Kan. 67846 (ph toll free 1-800-835-9100; in Kansas call 1-800-742-9542).

New Gravity-Powered Cultivator Guide

"If you don’t compensate for slope on hills, the cultivator can shift closer to the plant row, damaging the roots," explains Ron Morlok, president of MJM Enterprises, Manning, Iowa, manufacturer of a new gravity powered "Cultivator Guide."

The guide attaches to the front axle of the tractor to keep you "on the row" without looking back — even on hilly ground — when pulling a rear-mounted cultivator. Morlok notes that the guide "fills the gap between rod-type guidance systems and the more expensive automated systems."

Key to the guide’s effectiveness is its pendulum-like design. A weight hangs on one arm of the guide and the chute that follows the corn row hangs on the other. The two counteract to compensate for the hillside slope so you can steer the tractor accordingly. A turnbuckle lets you fine-tune the guide, compensating for different tractors and cultivators.

The guide clamps on the front right outside of the tractor to work in 10 minutes. It’s set up for 38 in. rows. For narrower rows, and tractors with wide hoods, extensions are available which place the chute outside the front tire.

The guide sells for $125. Extentions for right at $50.

Free-swinging cultivator guide swings like a pendulum to follow the row.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MJM Enterprises, 811 Front St., Manning, Iowa 51445 (ph 712 653-3621).

Heavy-Built, It Fills Fast

New "Silage Stuffer" Now On The Market

"We think it outclasses any other silage bagger on the market and it costs less than most," says Alan Schaefer, distributor of the new Porta-Packer, developed and manufactured by a Michigan manufacturer.

Pro-driven by a minimum 50 hp. tractor, the Porta-Packer has a chain-driven auger and a hydraulically-driven feed conveyor with a unique design that lets the machine convey and pack material with one action. The unit is designed for easy portability, mounted on radial tires with brakes and equipped with tailights for over-the-road hauling.

"It packs a ton of silage into each foot of bag," Schaefer says, noting that the Porta-Packer uses a 20-in. dia. earth auger to fill bags. "We can pack anything that will go through it. It hasn’t plugged up yet."

The unit was built extra heavy with the idea of possible custom use by farmers who purchase it, and for low maintenance with only six grease zeks on the entire machine.

Schaefer says the machine is easy to set up. You just attach the bag — the company recommends it’s new cross-laminated 8-ft. dia. by 150-ft. long bags — and start filling. The machine walks itself along without use of cables. It’s fill a 150-ft. bag in two hours, according to Schaefer.

Self-feeding gates are available to allow cattle to feed directly from the bags. The Porta-Packer can also be used to fill bags with shelled corn at a rate of about 8,000 bu. a hour. Custom bag fillers can charge about $800 a bag, supplying the bag themselves, and make good money, according to the company.

The new Porta-Packer sells for less than $15,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alan Schaefer, Sho-Me Distributing Co., Box A, Bloomdale, Mo. 63627 (ph toll free 800-231-4242 or 314 483-2552).