Max Robinson came up with this seed cleanout system for his Deere 1790 planter. "There was no good way to clean out the big central seed boxes," he explains.

Clean-Out Chute For Deere Planters

Max Robinson, Marysville, Ohio, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a handy seed cleanout system he came up with for his new Deere 1790 planter.

"The engineer who designed this planter did a fine job and we're happy with it. They installed a filling system that works well, but didn't design a way to clean out the big central seed boxes," says Max.

"When we got the planter, I asked the technician, 'How do we clean out the seed boxes when changing the seed or when we're done planting?' He replied, 'Spread out a big tarp, drive over the top of it, let the seed out, then sweep the seed off the tarp'."

Robinson thought there had to be a better way, so he made a lightweight wooden chute that's designed to set under the tank. One person can easily handle it. Just set the chute under the planter's seed tubes and open them up. The grain runs down the chute and into a seed bag. Once the bag is full you close a metal slide on the chute.

The unit will work on both sides of the planter.

"It works well and sure takes the work out of getting seed out of the tanks. We have neighbors with the same kind of planter who want to use the chute to clean out their own tanks," notes Robinson.

Lightweight wooden chute is designed to set under planter's seed tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Max E. Robinson, 22669 St. Rt. 4, Marysville, Ohio 43040 (ph 937 642-1132).

MAD concave (right) is designed for tough, hard-to-thresh grain and seeds.

"Mad" Case IH Combine Owners Get New Concave

Case IH combine owners fed up with grain dockage can get a new MAD Concave from Skayman's Welding-Machining. Dallas Skayman says the concaves, which were designed for tough, hard-to-thresh grains and seeds, have a fitting name.

"When all else fails, these will work," he says. "The letters MAD stand for the people who designed it, but it also fits our customers. They are pretty fed up and hot under their collar with their original concaves."

The problem, he says, is that standard IH concaves don't thresh out the bits of stem and hull that stick to bottom kernels on wheat, bolls on flax, sprouted grains and other problem crops. While the problems vary by year and conditions, all too often the end result is dockage at the elevator.

"Our concaves weigh 57 lbs. compared to 43 to 55 lbs. for OEM concaves. Because they are more aggressive, with thicker and stronger steel, the operator can open up the cylinder, get greater capacity and travel faster. There's less space between the bars, reducing the chance of trash making it into the hopper."

The concaves are designed for IH 70, 80 and 90 series combines and cost $650 each. Skayman recommends replacing at least the front left and right concaves. For really tough threshing, he suggests replacing four concaves.

"With four you will get the best job done you can," he says. "In a normal year you may be able to get away with replacing only two, depending on conditions and the crop. Our growers see benefits in not only threshing out wheat and flax, but also oats, alfalfa and canary and in separating out sprouted grains."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Skayman's Welding-Machining, Box 362, Hamiota, Manitoba Canada R0M 0T0 (ph 204 764-2290).

Battery-operated winch raises and lowers step on homemade metal slide.

Simple Tractor Lift

"My knees won't climb the steps of my Deere 7210 tractor anymore, so I made a lift for it," says Orville Flager, Ottawa, Kansas.

"Commercial lifts cost hundreds of dollars but I spent just $100 plus labor. I bought a small winch from Harbor Freight (www.harborfreight.com) and wired in a 30-amp fuse. It runs off the tractor battery.

"I used a steel plate for the back and 2 lengths of 2 ½-in. angle iron to make the slide for the step, which is held by a bracket made from 2-in. angle iron.

"I can remove the powered step by removing 4 bolts and then folding the original steps back down."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orville Flager, 1245 Labette Rd., Ottawa, Kansas 66067 (ph 785 566-3504).

Students at a high school welding class in Huntsville, Ontario, converted a CJ Willys Jeep into this articulated vehicle. Works great for hauling firewood out of the woods.

Articulated "Truck" Made From Old Jeep

Sheldon Culham taught high school welding classes in Huntsville, Ontario. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a Jeep conversion made by the students in one of his classes.

"They converted a CJ Willys Jeep into an articulated vehicle to be used for hauling firewood out of the woods," says Culham.

The students stripped the Jeep down to the frame and made an articulation point just behind the transfer case. A pair of hydraulic cylinders, connected to a power steering pump, were used for the articulated steering system. The center pivot was made in the shape of a horizontal "T", allowing the front and back halves of the vehicle to articulate but also allowing the two sections to rotate up or down as they pass over uneven terrain, thereby keeping all four wheels in contact with the ground at all times.

The rear driveshaft had to be replaced with square slip tubing and a farm-type universal joint at the transfer case.

The original steering wheel was moved to the center by hooking the steering column up to two universal joints. In the woods the steering wheel is locked, and the vehicle steered by articulation. On the highway the rig is steered with the front wheels. In tight situations both steering systems can be used. "The articulation works great in the woods, because the back end can walk right around trees," says Culham. "The hydraulic dump box's sides can be let down so I can reach over and throw wood in.

"The box measures 5 ft. long by 4 ft. wide. The cylinders that raise and lower it are operated by a power steering pump."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sheldon Culham, 234 Mica Mine Road, Huntsville, Ontario, Canada P1H 1R3 (ph 705 789-5259; culhamfs@vianet.ca).