

Coulters Automatically Change Angle On Vertical Tillage Rig

“Our new vertical tillage machine lets you change the coulters angle from your tractor seat on-the-go, according to field conditions,” says John Redekop, Mandako Agri, Plum Coulee, Man.

The “Twister” is equipped with independent gangs of wavy coulters. Each gang is controlled by a hydraulic cylinder. By activating a lever, the operator can change the coulters penetration angle anywhere from 0 to 9 degrees.

“Being able to change the angle of the coulters on-the-go makes it easy to adjust how aggressively you cut trash in the field,” says Redekop. “You can leave the coulters at a zero degree angle if you just want to cut trash and leave it on top. Cutting the stalks down to size allows them to decompose

faster. The machine weighs 675 lbs. per foot so it’s heavy enough to cut through tough corn stalks.

“But if you want to incorporate more trash, you can easily set the blades at an angle. Incorporating more trash allows the seedbed to warm up and dry out quicker in the spring, so you can get in the field sooner with planting equipment. It also leaves the field with a smoother finish so your planter can do a nice, even job of seeding.”

The Twister requires 10 hp/ft. Models are available 12 to 40 ft. wide.

Available rear-mounted attachments include a spring tine harrow, 16-in. dia. rolling basket, and Phillips rolling harrow.

The Twister retails for less than \$2,000 per ft.



Independent gangs of wavy coulters are each controlled by a hydraulic cylinder, allowing operator to change coulters penetration angle up to 9 degrees.

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“Y Drop” Liquid Fertilizer Applicator

Applying fertilizer in the right place at the right time, using exactly the right amount. That’s the idea behind this new “Y Drop” applicator for row crop sprayers.

The Y Drop system is designed to sidedress a variety of liquid products close to the plant row. A series of drop bars fasten to the spray boom with a plastic Y-shaped piece attached to the bottom. Plastic hose clamps to each drop bar and splits at the bottom into two drag hoses, one on each side of the Y-shaped piece. The hoses deliver liquid fertilizer within 2 to 3 in. of the row.

The plastic Y-shaped piece simply separates the hoses and provides weight balance. The drop bar is free to swivel so it won’t tangle up on end rows.

“It lets you apply fertilizer next to the plant row at high speeds. By placing products in that root zone, you can boost the chances for higher yields,” says Dan Muff, Ag

Alternatives, Garner, Iowa. “In the past, farmers have used coulters systems to put liquid fertilizer in the middle of the row. However, what guarantees the fertilizer will ever get to the plant, much less that it’ll get to the plant at the right time. So our system reduces the chance nutrients are wasted or cause an environmental issue. In dry seasons, moisture from a heavy dew or light rain helps nutrients placed by Y Drop become available. The system can also be used to apply liquid insecticides.”

The Y Drop system can be used at any time, from planting to standing corn, and in any row crop including soybeans. “Spray nozzles can be attached to the drop bar to allow foliar and side dress applications at the same time,” notes Muff.

The company offers a wide variety of specialty liquid products such as Micro-Pac,k, Micro-Sprout, Bio-Max Defender G4,



Vertical drop bars fasten onto sprayer toolbar, with a plastic Y-shaped piece attached to the bottom. A pair of drag hoses deliver product within 2 to 3 in. of the row.

Foliar Seed Set, Rondo and others.

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50438 (ph 641 829-3358; AgAlternatives@netins.net; www.AgAlternatives.com).

“Trap” Vacuums Flies Off Cows

A fly vacuum that sucks flies off cows when they walk through it was introduced at the recent World Ag Expo in California.

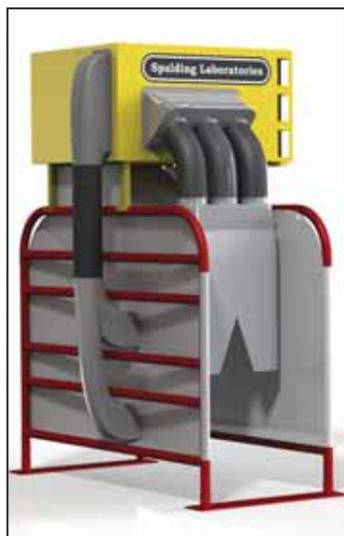
It’s powered by a 3/4 hp electric motor and is equipped with plastic vacuum tubes on one side and pressure tubes with a collection chamber on the other.

When a cow walks through the device, a blower automatically starts up and blows flies off the animal’s face, legs and body. The airborne flies are then sucked up into vacuum tubes. As the cow continues to move forward it walks underneath a curtain that also vacuums flies off the animal’s back. The blower automatically shuts off after the last cow has passed through. Then valves inside the vacuum tubes close, capturing the flies inside where they’re lured by light inside a collection chamber.

Eventually the flies run out of energy, die and fall into a bag below the chamber.

“Flies can’t build up resistance like they do to chemicals,” says Tom Spalding of Spalding Labs. “The idea is to collect flies faster than they can reproduce. The system has been tested successfully for four years at a major university. Before using the Cow Vac, grazing cows at the research dairy had horn fly numbers of up to 1,200 per cow. What’s important is to keep fly numbers below the economic threshold of 200, not only for the economic aspect but also for the comfort of the animal. With the Cow Vac in use this has been achieved and often there are cows that are fly-free.

“The electric motor operates only when cows go through the unit so the operating cost is minimal.”



Fly vacuum sucks flies off cows as they walk through it. Flies are then lured by light into a collection chamber.

Spalding says he expects to have the unit in production by this June. “Our final price hasn’t been determined, but we expect it to sell for \$2,500 to \$5,000,” he notes.

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Giant Predator chainsaw is powered by a Buick V-8 engine with 300-plus hp. It once cut through a 30-in. log in .088 seconds.

Predator Eats Through Logs In A Second

Powered by a Buick V-8 engine, the giant Predator chainsaw once cut through a 30-in. log in .088 seconds.

So far, that’s a record, says Robert Andrews, owner and builder of the 509-lb., 300-plus hp, 200-mph cutting monster.

The Enumclaw, Wash., resident built the saw after his wife asked him why he didn’t have an engine-powered saw to use at lumberjack competitions. “About \$20,000 later she wondered why she said it,” Andrews laughs.

Employed as a machinist, Andrews was up to the task. He chose a 1963 Buick V-8 215 cubic inch engine because it was the lightest weight V-8.

“It was a short block all in pieces. It all had to be machined, so I custom-built it like a full-blown race engine.”

The driving mechanism is a jackshaft off a tractor. Pulleys from a dragster’s super charger drive the chain.

He purchased the biggest chainsaw chain

he could – an Oregon 11H Harvester chain used in mechanized logging – and custom-built the 4-ft. bar. Running at 8,000 to 9,000 rpm’s the biggest concern is breaking a chain during a cut. “When they break they act like a bullwhip,” Andrews says. “At a Canadian competition, a 12-in. piece of chain flew 1 1/2 miles.”

Fascination with the Predator led to a four-page spread in Hot Rod magazine. As far as Andrews knows it’s the only time a chainsaw has ever been featured in the magazine.

At 48, Andrews admits the saw seems to be getting heavier, but he has four or five lift partners to take turns with him at shows. And he has a plan for the future.

“I’m going to keep it forever and get young strong kids to run it,” he laughs.

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