

Home-Built 16-Row Stack Planter Works Great

"I built this 16-row stack planter using parts from three individual planters and a lot of extra scrap iron," says Brian Hoogestraat, who raises corn and soybeans with his father near Chancellor, S. Dak. He started the project with two Deere 7200's and the frame off an International 800 mounted planter.

"First, I pulled off all the row units to strip the planters down to their main frames," Hoogestraat says. "Then I removed the hitches from the Deere planters and spent a lot of time thinking about how to put everything back together."

The center section of his rig uses the original IH 800 frame, the hitch mechanism and the lift assist wheels. He doubled the 7 by 7-in. main frame to provide the extra strength needed to support the four rows on each wing. He put 4-in. spacers between the two bars to provide lateral support.

Hoogestraat cut almost a 10-ft. long piece from the main bar of each 7200 frame to make the bar for each wing. He welded brackets on one end of each piece so they would slide into a sleeve on each end of the center section. Then he built wing lift brackets to mount a 4 by 24-in. dual acting cylinder. The cylinders lift the wings from underneath and raise them above the center frame, supported by a pivoting brace made of tubing. The 4th row unit in from the outside on each wing raises

slightly as the wings are lifted. The wings pivot on greasable pins.

"My design is real simple and the wings actually stack tighter and transport lower than commercial units on the market," Hoogestraat says. "The markers are about a foot above the boxes when the wings are folded, but the overall height easily fits in our shed."

The planter is fitted with 16 row units from the 7200 Deere planters. They're powered by a 7200 ground drive system that Hoogestraat re-configured for his rig.

"When the wings are down, I set the cylinders on float and the planter follows the ground contour real well," Hoogestraat says. The weight of the bar and row units provides plenty of down pressure for consistent planting depth.

"The best part is that I can raise the wings on this planter to get through a wet spot and not have to worry about bogging the whole thing down," says Hoogestraat. "That's not possible with a toolbar type planter that folds forward."

Hoogestraat figures he spent about \$15,000 to configure and build his custom-made planter. "It took me the better part of a couple months over one winter," he says. "If we were to buy this machine from a dealer the cost might have been \$70,000 to \$80,000, maybe



Brian Hoogestraat built this 16-row stack planter using parts from 3 individual planters and a lot of scrap iron.

more."

Hoogestraat pulls the stackable planter with an IH 7130 MFWD Magnum and says the machine has worked great the past five

years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Hoogestraat, 27515 464th Ave., Chancellor, S. Dak. 57015 (bhoggy@hotmail.com).

More New Uses For Industrial "Waste Products"

New uses keep popping up for old stuff at Damon Carson's Denver-based company, "RepurposedMATERIALS", that recycles industrial materials (see Vol. 35, No. 6).

Cattle Feeding:

"A rancher in Nebraska laid down 100-ft. lengths of conveyer belt in his pasture and feeds distillers grain on it," says Carson. "When he needs to move pastures, he just drags the belts to the new area."

Carson adds that repurposedMATERIALS has lots more conveyer belt in 36 to 72-in. widths, starting at \$6 per running foot. Other uses have included windbreaks, flooring for shops and trailers, and ground protection for heavy equipment.



One rancher laid down 100-ft. lengths of conveyer belt in his pasture and feeds distillers grain on it.

Aquaponic Tote:

"Cut off the tops, and our liquid totes are great for hard goods storage, or you can cut them in half, and they work great for raising fish," says Carson.



With the tops cut off, liquid totes work great for raising fish.

Irrigation Storage Tote:

"Left as they are, our 275-gal. liquid totes make great remote water storage for irrigation," says Carson. "They can be elevated for gravity flow, and they already have a 2-in. ball valve on the bottom. The valve makes it easy to plumb them for aquaponics, too."



Totes work great for storing irrigation water and can be elevated for gravity flow.

Pond Liner:

"Our 300-sq. ft. advertising billboard vinyls are being used to line a pond on an organic farm in Colorado," reports Carson. "That's just the latest of dozens of uses, including use as low cost, heavy-duty tarps for covering hay and equipment. They can also be used as big slippery slides for family fun in the summer."



Advertising billboard vinyls were used to line this pond on an organic farm in Colorado.



Emily Bale Shredder turns big round bales or big square bales into bedding. Machine can be mounted on telehandlers or big tractor loaders.

Bale Shredder Throws Material 50 Feet

"Dairymen and cattle producers who need to bed livestock in large barns have a new tool for the job," says Kara Burrell, marketing manager for Agromec Industries. Agromec recently introduced the Emily Bale Shredder, which has a powerful turbine and a patented walking floor to make short work of turning big round bales or big square bales into bedding. Burrell says, "the shredder can devour a 1,000 to 1,200-lb. bale in just a few minutes, churning the shredded material out through a swivel chute that pivots 260 degrees. The machine can be mounted on tele-handlers or big tractor loaders.



Unit churns shredded material out through a chute that rotates up to 260 degrees.

"The machine has a patented walking floor that automatically feeds the bale into the turbine without plugging," says Burrell. The table speed is synchronized with the turbine speed so the turbine blades can slice and shred the bale and not jam from infeeding too fast. When the bale is loaded on the shredder, the turbine is activated with a remote control in the cab. The turbine starts slowly and will reach its operating speed in 4 to 5 seconds. For safety reasons it's impossible to activate the walking floor until the turbine has reached operating speed.

Two hydraulic motors drive the walking floor and are integrated into the body of the machine. A separate hydraulic motor drives the turbine. There are no chains or belts to break or slip. Cutting teeth are bolted onto the turbine and can be replaced if needed. The

powerful turbine will throw material up to 50 ft. to easily bed stalls in dairy loafing barns or beef finishing pens. A joystick in the cab that moves the dispensing chute from side-to-side and up or down, allows the operator to easily direct material flow to the desired area. A metal tube on the side of the machine indicates when it's in level operating position for the best infeeding results. The machine also has retractable leg supports for extremely big bales and a rock trap at the base of the rotor.

The shredder weighs about 2,700 lbs. and its center of gravity when loaded with a bale is about three feet in front of the mounting brackets. The suggested retail price is \$26,000 to \$30,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kara Burrell, Agromec Industries, RR2, Box 29, Brandon, Man., Canada R7A 5Y2 (ph 204 728-4609; www.agromecindustries.com).