The scraper’s design forces mud and stubble away from the opening disc and the internal side of the planter’s gauge wheels, preventing the soil buildup that you get with standard frame-mounted scrapers,” says Hesla. “The design prevents soil and trash from plugging up between the opening discs.

“The scrapers can be used on any planter with or without our Pro Mag gauge wheels. They’re compatible with the new 15 and 16-in. double roller bearing disc opener designs found on newer planters.”

The scrapers sell for $39.99 apiece plus S&H. “The mounting body is a one-time purchase, and there is only the scraper blade to replace over time as it wears,” says Hesla. “We currently offer models for both single bearing and double bearing openers. We’ll add additional scraper blades as time goes on, so farmers will be able to select the wear factor they choose.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pro Mags LLC, 46185 307th St., Wakonda, S. Dak. 57073 (ph 605 659-3372; eric@promagonline.com; www.promagonline.com).

Low-Tech Way To Start Trees Fast

The tree T-PEE waterer keeps water from seeping outside the root zone of young trees, so you can grow trees almost anywhere with minimal labor, says the manufacturer, GSI Supply, Inc., of Arcadia, Fla.

The cone measures 24 in. in dia. at the base and 14 in. high, with an 8-in. opening at the top for the tree’s trunk. A water hose runs through holes at the base of the unit to a microjet nozzle inside each T-PEE.

The cone is split on one side, with buttons that fit into pre-drilled holes in the tree. After 3 or 4 years of use you can pull the cone off the tree and put it on another tree.

“It creates a mini greenhouse atmosphere that holds in the moisture and directs it to where it’s needed – the roots of the tree,” says David Hoppel. “It also reduces water, fuel and fertilizer use by up to 90 percent. The cone prevents wind diffusion and ensures very little loss of water. It results in deeper root growth and up to 30 percent increase in the growth of young trees.

“It also offers frost protection to young trees in colder seasons. The mist from the nozzle rising out of the top engulfs the tree’s canopy.”

The tree T-PEE retails for $5.95 plus S&H.

State-Of-The-Art Planter Disc Scrapers

“Our new scrapers bolt right onto the axle of the opening discs on any planter and offer a lot of advantages over standard frame-mounted scrapers,” says Eric Hesla, Pro Mags LLC, Wakonda, S. Dak.

The universal scrapers are designed to replace the original frame-mounted scrapers on any planter. Using a wrench, you can adjust the mounting arm tension and set the blade to make contact anywhere along the opening disc.

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Treated Corn Stover Can Be A Valuable Feed Source

Cattlemen who are looking for a way to make corn stover and other residue into a nutritious and palatable roughage source for livestock have a new option. It’s called Second Crop™, a patent-pending treatment process from ADM that transforms corn stover into a valuable feed source.

The Second Crop process is simple. ADM field crews apply lime (calcium hydroxide) with corn stover as it’s being ground in a commercial tub grinder. All the farmer needs to do is supply enough water to bring the moisture content of his stover up to about 50 percent during grinding.

ADM’s John Klein supervised the trial program in 2013 and says cattlemen who used the system liked the feed product that it turned out.

“Treated ground stover from the tub grinder is packed into a bunker, silo or in a slage bag and is stored for a minimum of 7 to 10 days to cure, similar to corn silage,” Klein says. “When it’s ready for feeding the stover can be mixed with distillers grain, gluten or other feedstocks to create a suitable ration for backgrounding cattle or brood cows or for finishing cattle.

Klein says that removing some of the residue from a harvested corn field is actually beneficial for planting the following year. “Too much residue can harbor diseases and insects and affect planting, especially with canola or soybean rotations.” Research by Monsanto has shown that 30 to 40 percent of the residue can be removed without affecting soil nutrients.

Other Monsanto research has been done to improve the feed value of residue for beef cattle. The company has increased digestibility by adding 7 percent dry calcium hydroxide by dry weight, 50 percent moisture by weight and then storing the feed in bags or bunks for 4 to 7 days before feeding. Steve Peterman of Monsanto says this formula can be up to 50 percent more digestible than untreated corn stover.

One of the keys to producing quality feed with either approach is to start with clean residue. Chopped stalks that are then raked into windrows tend to pick up dirt, which isn’t palatable to cattle. New Holland is using a new cornhead attachment called the Corrrower that windrows chopped stalks behind the corn head and in between the combine drive wheels. Small doors on the corrower can be opened or closed to regulate how much residue is left in a windrow (Vol. 36, No. 2).

New Holland’s Jim Moellerberndt says the corrower reduces the chances of dirt getting into the residue while creating a fluffy windrow that’s easy to bale or collect with a chopper.

ADM research shows that cattle will readily eat properly stored and treated residue. Their rate of gain on stover and corn co-products such as distillers grains is essentially the same as cattle that are fed corn or hay. Treated corn stover can replace up to 20 percent of the corn in a finishing ration, and some studies have shown that as much as 80 percent can be replaced depending on other ingredients used in the ration. The company continues to research the process, looking for improvements.

ADM’s Klein says the reason the treated residue works is that the lime slurry breaks the fiber-lignin bonds in the residue and makes the carbohydrates available for digestion. The treated residue can be stored for several months before feeding as long as it’s kept in an oxygen-free environment.

ADM’s pilot program is operating in parts of 10 Midwestern states for 2014. Other mobile units are planned for the future.

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