

Editor's Notebook



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This 12-row, 20-in. Case IH VibraShank cultivator is fitted with Profit Organics' Flow Shields.

"Flow Shields" Catching On Fast

An interesting fellow from Wisconsin stopped by our office the other day. Among other things, Curt Forde of Profit Organics is the inventor of a new add-on product for cultivators. "We've sold Flow Shields to farmers all over the country since you featured them this winter in the 2015 Best of FARM SHOW. There's tremendous interest in this new method of cultivation, which lets you double your speed without damaging crops," says Forde.



Units simply bolt to the cultivator shank with no modification required. Forde has had orders for thousands of Flow Shields from all over the U.S., Canada and foreign countries.



"This is a product that allows organic farming in a big way because you can cultivate at high speeds without the need for chemicals. Big conventional farmers can drop chemicals and no longer worry about chemical-resistant weeds. I've never seen a weed that's resistant to a cultivator shovel."

Forde came up with the idea while cultivating corn that was 6 to 8 in. tall. Large chunks of soil were wiping out plants. He went to the shop and made the first Flow-Shield, which breaks up soil coming off the shovel and directs it down toward the plants. "I knew I was onto something right away. It's simple and it works. We're getting interest from farmers, big and small, in nearly every state of the union. We still sell them for just \$10 apiece, which is cheaper than you can make them. Shipping is just \$18 for up to 40 units."

Profit Organics is a coalition of farmers (you join for \$25 at the website) who are testing many new methods of big-time chemical-free farming. That includes extensive work on solid-seeded corn harvested with custom-built "row independent" cornheads and new methods of incorporating cover crops into row crop farming. This spring they will be testing a first-of-its-kind planter that is a combination of a conventional row crop planter and grain drill. For example, it will plant corn in rows and seeds oats between the rows - all in one pass.

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Repairing Today's Electronics

John Boersma has been repairing all kinds of ag electronics for the past 32 years. He also invented a product for Case IH Magnum Series tractors that was once featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 22, No. 2). He stopped by our office the other day to talk about something he sees as a disturbing trend in

ag electronics.

"I've worked on planter monitors, moisture meters, electronic tractor controls, and many other types of ag electronics for many years. I primarily work directly with dealers who send in equipment for repair," says Boersma. "But in recent years ag companies are increasingly making their electronics proprietary so that only they can work on them. They either won't sell repair parts to farmers, or they don't even make them. If something goes bad, you have to buy a new one."

"I had a screen on a tractor monitor that was cracked. The company said they couldn't sell me just the screen. I traveled to the factory and got a tour of the assembly line. They finally did sell me a new screen but during our conversations they said, 'One unit repaired is one less unit sold', which I think is a very bad approach for a company to have toward its customers."

John's product that was featured in FARM SHOW is a draft sensing pin. Older model Magnum series tractors came equipped with an electronic 3-pt. hitch with a draft sensing pin. If the pin fails, the 3-pt. hitch isn't usable. Boersma developed a circuit that plugs into the tractor wiring harness in place of the pin and allows the hitch to be used in manual mode. Costs a fraction of what a new pin would cost. (Ag Electronics Repair, Inc.; ph 507 263-5515).

Are Your Tractor Tires Aligned?

Have you ever noticed that the tires on some tractors seem to wear out faster than others? Most people blame that on poor tire quality. But the cause might just be bad tire alignment.

A German-designed tire alignment system recently made its way to England, where our British correspondent Andrew Sewell spotted it. "The company claims that just a 4/10ths of an inch toe-in on a tractor results in a loss of 13 hp. and increased fuel use of 4 percent. The tires also break down 24 percent faster due to extra 'side scrub' wear," says Sewell.



System uses a laser attached to the wheel rim to make sure big tractor tires are aligned, reducing wear and lowering fuel consumption.

Haweka AG from Germany makes tire alignment systems for all kinds of vehicles (www.haweka.com). The laser-guided system they sell for tractor tires costs about \$6,900. British tire shop Winn Tyres in Pocklington charges \$115 to align a tractor (www.winntyres.co.uk). They report that some tires are off by nearly an inch direct from the factory. Alignment is most important on tires that are driven a lot on the highway, but it's important no matter how a tractor is used. One problem is that some tractors don't have fine adjustments on the rod ends, making corrections difficult.

Liberty Quotes

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." *Mark Twain*

"Whenever people talk glibly of a need to achieve educational 'excellence', I think of what an improvement it would be if our public schools could just achieve mediocrity." *Thomas Sowell*

"The greatest danger to liberty today comes from the men who are most needed and most powerful in modern government; namely, the efficient expert administrators exclusively concerned with what they regard as the public good." *Friedrich August von Hayek*

"You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once." *Robert Heinlein*

"We must respect the other fellow's religion, but only in the sense and to the extent that we respect his theory that his wife is beautiful and his children smart." *H.L. Mencken*

"I have always held firmly to the thought that each one of us can do a little to bring some portion of misery to an end." *Albert Schweitzer*

"Elections are a good deal like marriages. There's no accounting for anyone's taste. Every time we see a bridegroom we wonder why she ever picked him, and it's the same with public officials." *Will Rogers*

"If you see a man approaching you with the obvious intent of doing you good, you should run for your life." *Henry David Thoreau*



Built primarily for show, grader looks like the real thing.

Another One From Don Campbell

There are very few inventors and machine builders like Don Campbell, Gaylord, Mich., whose detailed half-scale Deere 9630 tractor was featured in the last issue of FARM SHOW. Since then, Don has shown us an amazing variety of scale models and one-of-a-kind machines he has built. Over the next few issues, we'll be showing you a bunch of them.



Campbell extended tractor frame 6 ft. with thin wall tubing to accommodate the grader blade.

The small-size "Deere" wheel grader shown here started life as a Wheelhorse garden tractor without a mower deck. Campbell first cut off the front axle and then extended the frame 6 ft. using 6-in. dia. thin-wall tubing for the grader frame. He installed taller tires on the front and back, welding 5-bolt spindles on the front and reworking the fenders on back to clear the 30-in. tires. He made the 6-ft. wide grader blade and pivot plate out of 18-ga. sheet metal so it's easy to raise and lower with a lever. Campbell says the grader was built just for show but could easily be modified to function as a working grader, if desired.

Points To Ponder

"Goodness is the only investment that never fails."

Henry David Thoreau

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention." *Khalil Gibran*

"Do your duty, and leave the rest to heaven."

Henry David Thoreau

"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory." *Franklin P. Adams*

"Once a person is determined to help themselves, there is nothing that can stop them." *Nelson Mandela*

"Never ruin an apology with an excuse."

Kimberly Johnson

"Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."

William Faulkner

"You can never get enough of what you don't really need."

Eric Hoffer

Ole had been going to the doctor and on the most recent occasion, the doctor advised him to eat less, work harder, and not go on any vacations.

"Will dat help my condition?" asked Ole.

"Well, no," admitted the doctor, "but it will enable you to pay your bill sooner."

The manager of an upscale men's wear store in a wealthy section of town was interviewing Ole for a job as a salesman.

As he looked at Ole's resume he noticed that Ole had never worked in retail before. "It seems to me that you have a lot of nerve applying for this job. You have no experience doing this job and yet you're asking for a very high salary."

"Vell, yes, I yam," Ole replied. "But yew must understand dat da work is so much harder when yew don't know what yew're doing."

Sven was speeding down the highway, feeling safe because he was traveling in a group of cars that were all going at the same speed. However, as the cars passed a speed trap, he got pulled over by a patrol officer.

The officer handed Sven a citation and turned to walk away when Sven said, "Officer, I know I was speeding but I don't tink it's fair. Der was plenty of oder cars around me dat vere goink just as fast. So why did I get da ticket?"

"Ever go fishing?" the policeman asked.

"Yuh, I luff to fish in da summer," Sven said enthusiastically. The officer grinned and added, "Ever catch ALL the fish?"