

“End Guard” Protects Sicklebar Mower

“I had a problem with uncut grass catching on the end knife on my Deere 7-ft. pull-type sicklebar mower, causing it to plug up. I solved the problem by making a metal guide that pushes grass away from the end of the knife. It also protects the knife from rocks,” says Donald Jaster, Bruce, Wis.

The guide is made from a 1 1/2-in. wide length of strap metal. Jaster drilled a 1/2-in. dia. hole near one end of the strap and used a dremel tool to grind a taper to the hole. Then he used a cutting torch to heat up the strap so he could form a bend around the sicklebar’s outer shoe point. The strap is held in place by an existing bolt that controls the position of the sicklebar’s adjustable sole plate.

“The problem is, there’s no ledger plate for the end knife to cut against on its return stroke, so it gets caught on uncut grass and plugs up,” says Jaster.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Jaster, N5516 Johnson Rd., Bruce, Wis. 54819 (ph 715 868-8250; K9yli@aol.com).



Metal guide pushes uncut grass away from end of knife on Jaster’s Deere 7-ft. pull-type sicklebar mower so that it won’t plug up. Guide also protects knife from rocks.



Robotic spreader from JH Agro spreads straw, sand and other bedding material with no need for a shovel or fork. Battery-powered unit moves back and forth on rails.

Robotic Spreader Beds Livestock Automatically

A robotic spreader from JH Agro keeps livestock and poultry happy and healthy and reduces labor for their owners. The Danish equipment spreads straw, sand and other bedding material with no need for shovel or fork. Nick DeBoer has used one in his Ontario dairy for the past 5 years.

“It saves a lot of labor and is good for the cows,” says DeBoer. “Even with mattresses for stalls, a little straw helps reduce abrasiveness. It makes life a little nicer for the cows.”

DeBoer appreciates that not only do he and his workers not have to spread straw by hand, they don’t have to disturb the cows by entering the loafing area. That is especially important with the robotic milking system he installed at the same time. He says it has been a good investment in cow comfort.

Every morning the battery-powered, automated bedding distributor zips back and forth on rails. It spreads a small square bale’s worth of straw with each trip, returning to base to reload when empty.

DeBoer loads a large square straw bale into a chop box. It chops the bale up and elevates the straw to fill the distributor as needed. He uses about one large bale a week to keep 135 stalls bedded. If straw falls on a cow, DeBoer knows the straw will fall off when she stands up or moves around.

The system is easily programmed to control

how and where the straw is distributed. DeBoer says the distribution system has been very low maintenance.

“It has operated smoothly, and I’ve only had to replace the batteries and install an updated circuit board,” he says. “I have a robotic feeder that requires much more support.”

DeBoer bought the distribution system as part of a robotic dairy system package from Norwell Dairy. He also uses a robotic calf feeder and is sold on the reduced labor.

“I don’t think my kids would have stayed with the dairy business without the robotics,” he says.

He notes that a number of hog producers have visited his operation to see the spreader. JH Agro says European hog and poultry producers like the system for feeding roughage. The company cites research showing feeding roughage to pen-free egg-laying hens reduces feather pecking and cannibalism. Sows fed roughage like corn silage are more content and less stressed.

There’s a video of the straw distribution system at FARMSHOW.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norwell Dairy Systems Ltd., 37 Drayton Industrial Drive, Drayton, Ont. Canada N0G 1P0 (ph 519 638-3535; info@norwelldairy.com; www.norwelldairy.com).



Heavy-built guard protects the front end on Swensen’s IH 450 loader tractor.

Tractor Grill Guard

Gary Swensen hired Double D Machine shop in Yankton, S. Dak., to build a grill guard for his 450 IH tractor.

“I got the idea after seeing so many loader tractors with banged up front ends. This guard is built so heavy, with angled braces that go back to the frame of the tractor, that I think it’ll be able to stop almost any load

that swings into it.

“I think Double D Machine is one of the best welding and machine shops in the country,” notes Swensen.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak. (g_swensen@msn.com).

1,446 Pages Of Great Ideas!

Even if you’re a long-time subscriber to FARM SHOW and have saved every issue, you’ll want to have these three books in your FARM SHOW library. Each 482-page book contains approximately 1,200 of the best stories from past issues of FARM SHOW. Each book is indexed and cross-referenced so it’s easy to find individual stories. No more wasting time paging through back issues.

Volume I contains the best “made it myself” stories from the years 2000 to 2004. Volume II contains the best stories from 2005 to 2009. And Volume III covers the years from 2010 to 2014.

You get the full original story on each idea, complete with how-to details and photos, plus the inventor’s name, address and phone number.

You can get a copy of our latest Volume III Encyclopedia for just \$14.95 plus \$4.95 S&H (just one shipping charge no matter how many books you order). Volume II and III are also still available for \$14.95 apiece. Or you can buy all three books for just \$39.95 plus S&H.

As one long-time reader told us, it’s the best bargain in farming! You can’t go wrong since we guarantee complete satisfaction. If you’re not happy for any reason, we’ll refund your money, no questions asked. And you don’t even have to return the books!

To order, go to www.farmshow.com or use the order form inserted into this issue.



For a limited time you can still buy each volume in our series of “Encyclopedia of Made It Myself Ideas” for just \$14.95 apiece. Or you can buy all three - Volume I, Volume II and Volume III - for just \$39.95 plus \$4.95 S&H. Makes a great gift!