Derrick Mike's Case IH grain drill trails perfectly behind his Brillion cultimulcher, eliminating a trip across the field.

To keep the drill level, Derrick's dad attached the steerable front axle of a Deere 1065 running gear to the drill.

Photo shows bracket connecting drill hitch to running gear axle.

He Preps And Plants In A Single Pass

Derrick Mike gets twice the punch out of every pass with his trailing drill. Thanks to his dad Ken, the Case IH drill trails perfectly behind Mike's Brillion culti-mulcher.

"We wanted to eliminate a trip across the field," says Mike. "When we first tried hooking the drill to the culti-mulcher, we couldn't keep it level. The drill would lift out of the ground when we raised the culti-mulcher."

To resolve the problem, Ken attached the steerable front axle of a John Deere 1065 running gear to the drill. Using rectangular steel tubing and flat plate steel, he fabricated a bracket to connect the drill hitch to the running gear axle. A short length of 3-in. square steel tubing welded to the axle extends to the rear. A T-plate welded to it bolts to the drill hitch.

The connection is reinforced with two sets of square steel tube braces welded to the axle. One set of 1 1/2-in. braces is welded ahead of the bracket connecting plate. A set of 1-in. sq. tube braces extends past the bracket to the drill hitch frame.

The second set of braces, like the connecting plate, is bolted to the drill hitch. Mike can quickly disconnect the front axle and revert to hitching the drill directly to a tractor.

"We've used it for close to 20 years," says Mike. "We plant all our soybeans behind the cultimulcher."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Derrick Mike, N6481 8th. Ct., Westfield, Wis. 53964 (ph 608 369-1063; dmikecaseih@gmail.com).

Corn/Bean System Cuts Compaction, Builds Yield

"When I was about 14 years old I remember we took out a fence and the soil in the fence row was very fertile and loose, with a defined soil structure. The first year, the corn in that strip of soil grew 2 ft. taller than in the rest of the field. However, over time the difference faded away," says Dean Glenney, Dunnville, Ontario, who has worked through the years to devise a tillage and planting system that would re-create that fence row-type of soil.

His first step was switching to an alternating pattern of planting corn and beans in the mid 1990's. He added a splitter to a new White planter with 6 planter boxes each. He offset the planter frame 4 in. to the left and the splitter 4 in. to the right. This produced twin-rows 8 in. apart. He added coulters to lay down dry fertilizer between the rows and 28 percent liquid to each side of the rows.

Each crop is rotated and planted directly over the rows of the previous year's crop. Doing so allows him to limit equipment traffic to 2 wheel tracks in each strip with tracks repeated every year. It's a process that is much easier with the development of GPS guidance systems, notes Glenney.

"Initially I had to leave a row of corn to eyeball the field to keep it straight," he says. "Now with GPS guidance, anybody can do it."

Wheels only touch his corn strips at planting and harvest. Soybean tracks also carry sprayer traffic; however even then, compaction is limited. The planter tractor is equipped with duals, spreading the weight over the entire 22-in. row space. The sprayer is set up so its wheels are on the inside of the space and the combine runs on the outside.

In order to limit the sprayer to the soybean strips, Glenney added extended wings and drop nozzles to cover 12 rows. When spraying corn, he activates 3 nozzles to the far left and right.

Getting his planting system in place was more difficult. For the first 10 years, heavy corn residue and corn root balls were a problem when planting soybeans. Glenney stumbled on a solution when he mounted a new opener coulter next to a worn one.

"It created a leading edge coulter that helped slice through the root ball," he explains. "That extra 1/4 in. changed planting. I put new coulters on half the openers, and it was amazing what it did."

Planter modifications continue as this year he replaced half his press wheels with sharp-tooth trash whippers.

"I put the trash whippers on at an angle and ran them backward," he says. "They push the soil in to fill the seed trench, and the remaining plain closing wheel presses it down."

The novel system has worked out well. His soil has responded, and yields have as well. He fertilizes the same as he did 20 years ago when his yield goal was 150 bu. per acre. However, in recent years he has won province-wide yield contests and hit yields of 300 bu. per acre in corn and a high yield of 72 bu. per acre in soybeans.

"I expected to sacrifice soybean yields with the strips, but yields of 60 to 70 bu. per acre aren't too shabby," says Glenney. "I figure shading from the corn is minimal, as I plant my rows east to west."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Glenney, 448 Haldimand Rd. 17, Dunnville, Ontario Canada N1A 2W4 (905 774-4307; dean@klsengineering.ca).

In the mid 1990's Dean Glenney switched to an alternating pattern of corn and beans (top). This year he replaced half his press wheels with sharp-tooth trash whippers (left). Each crop is rotated and planted directly over the rows of the previous year's crop.