Precise Way To Seed Grass, Apply Fertilizer

"My family and I are growers for local farmers markets in Central Texas. We use rye grass for drive lanes and to cover areas around seasonal planting beds," says Brock Powell, Belton, Texas.

"The rye grass lanes provide erosion control, weed suppression and access to crops during wet weather.

"To make it quick and easy to plant, I mounted a 12-volt spreader on a plywood bed that I made to fit the back of a golf cart. An extra 12-volt battery mounted on the bed is used to power the spreader.

"In order to more precisely plant rye along field edges and rows, I installed a shield around the seeder made from lightweight plastic corrugated sign material. It has a smooth surface so seed slides off easily. It's also flexible so I can bend it around the seeder, and it's durable.

"When operating, the seed hits the sides of the shield, dropping straight down in a controlled pattern that's the same width as the golf cart. After seed placement, a drag is used to lightly cover it.

A separate 12-volt battery is used to power the spreader.

"We also use this spreader and shield to apply fertilizer to crop rows. It saves costs by letting us precisely apply product only where we want it.

"This has been a very inexpensive and useful tool for our market garden."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brock Powell, 2608 N. Main St., Ste B-271, Belton, Texas 76513 (brock@groundpoint.com).

Brock Powell uses a 12-volt spreader mounted on back of a golf cart to precisely plant rye around seasonal planting beds. Seed hits the sides of a plastic shield and drops straight down.

Solid Footings, For New Or Existing Pole-Type Buildings

Steve Beach with Strong Way Systems in Varna, Ill., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a couple new steel post products they've developed for pole buildings – one for new construction and the other for permanent post repair.

"A building's foundation should outlast the building. These two products give your building a foundation that's made of concrete and steel," says Beach.

The company's Strong Way Sleeve is designed to reinforce existing wood posts that have decayed at ground level and below. Made of galvanized steel, the 6-ft. long, 3-sided sleeve includes built-in uplift anchors to increase the building's stability. "The sleeve installs quickly. Most jobs can be completed in a single day, with little or no excavation required," says Beach. "The sleeve is made of 10-ga. galvanized steel so it'll never decay, twist or warp."

The sleeve is hydraulically driven 3 to 4 ft. into the ground with specialized equipment, and what's left above ground is bolted to the post. A metal bracket holds the sleeve tight against the post as it's driven down.

For new construction, the company's Strong Way Column consists of a galvanized steel frame that's backfilled with concrete.

"The Strong Way Column offers up to 18 in. of height adjustability. It comes with a built-in grade board bracket and center line indicator," says Beach. "It's invulnerable to rot, decay and insect damage. The stability and strength of the steel means it won't expand and contract due to freezing and thawing so the building's foundation will never twist or warp."

Each Strong Way Column comes pre-assembled and with pre-drilled holes that make for simple attachment. "The steel column is much lighter than wood posts, which makes it easier to lift and also reduces the need for heavy machinery to assist in transportation and installation," says Beach. "Each post can be adjusted without difficulty and with precision while upright, which eliminates the need to correct post lengths on site."

Beach says the cost for the Strong Way Sleeve ranges from $225 to $275 per post including installation, depending on the size of the post. The Strong Way Column is available through the company or one of their authorized dealers for less than $100 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Beach, Strong Way Systems, 986 Wildwood Road, Varna, Ill. 61375 (ph 877 238-3735 or 815 780-0206; sales@strongwaysystems.com; www.strongwaysystems.com).

Designed for new construction, Strong Way Column consists of a galvanized steel frame that's backfilled with concrete. It comes with a built-in grade board bracket.

Made of galvanized steel, the 6-ft. long, 3-sided Strong Way Sleeve is designed to reinforce existing wood posts that have decayed at ground level and below.

Bottom-Spout Gas Can Triggered On Top

This new-style gas can dispenses fuel out the bottom of the can, eliminating the need to ever tip the can and virtually eliminating the risk of spillage.

The SureCan is equipped with a thumb trigger on top and a flexible rotating spout at the bottom. The spout rotates more than 180 degrees and the thumb trigger controls the flow. Pushing down on the thumb trigger opens a vent and valve at the same time to dispense fuel out the bottom of the can.

There's no need to bend over to tip the can forward.

There's no "glugging" of the gas, and no need to pull a spout from inside the can and touch the gas like with some other gas cans.

The SureCan is available in 3 different kinds of containers for gas, diesel and kerosene. The gas container is available in 2.2 ($39.99) and 5-gal. ($49.99) sizes on Amazon.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SureCanUSA (ph 801 827-0500; info@surecanusa.com; www.surecanusa.com).

SureCan has a thumb trigger on top and a flexible rotating spout at bottom. Pushing down on trigger opens a vent and valve at the same time to dispense fuel out bottom of can.

Seed-Size Electronic Grain Monitoring

An electronic capsule about the size of a kernel of corn can monitor grain quality inside bins and send that information to data readers outside the bin.

Lucas Frye and Joey Varikooty have formed a new company called Amber Ag to design, develop and test the product. Frye says the tiny modules, made of polycarbonate plastic, are small enough to travel through augers and other equipment like grain. A handful are distributed randomly throughout a bin, where they wirelessly collect data such as temperature and moisture. That data can be accessed from an app on a smart phone or a computer.

Frye grew up on an Illinois crop farm, and his partner Joey Varikooty grew up in New Jersey. They were brought together at the University of Illinois. They prototyped the product in Shenzhen, China, which Frye says is the computer hardware headquarters of the world.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Amber Agriculture, 965 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60642 (www.amber.ag).

Electronic capsules are distributed randomly throughout a bin. They monitor grain quality wirelessly and send information to data readers outside the bin.