

# Old Hi-Boy Sprayer Seeds Cover Crops

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

“The conservation district in a nearby county spent nearly \$100,000 on a self-propelled sprayer and converted it into a cover crop seeder, which got me to thinking I might be able to do the same thing for a whole lot less with an older Hi-Boy sprayer,” says Pennsylvania farmer Jim Kreger.

Always looking for ways to optimize their investment in farm equipment, Jim and his son Zach bought a 40-year-old Deere 6000 Hi-Boy sprayer at a farm auction for \$3,000. “The diesel engine ran well and the 4-speed transmission and frame were in good shape, so we just needed to convert it into a seeder,” says Jim.

After removing the spray booms, Jim built a frame to mount a fertilizer spin spreader that he bought at Tractor Supply on the lift arms, which operate on the rear of the machine like a 3-point tractor hitch. The hydraulic pump on the sprayer powers an orbit motor that drives the spreader.

“The arms lower the spreader so we can fill it with 300 to 400 lbs. of seed from the back

of a truck, then raise it nearly 10 ft. high to spread seed across 12 30-in. rows in a single pass,” Jim says. “The rear wheels straddle 4 30-inch rows and the single front wheel runs in the center. Fenders over the wheels split the rows real well. The only knockdowns we had were on the ends.”

Craig Williams of Penn State Extension helped them calibrate the application rate of perennial rye grass, which they applied in mid-August when the corn was fully grown and setting ears. “By the time we harvested the corn for silage in late September we had a nice green mat in the field, which is exactly what we wanted,” says Jim. Seeding into standing corn is definitely better than waiting till after harvest and hoping the crop will establish before freeze up. In 2020 they plan to seed tillage radishes in late July and perennial grasses in August so both crops get well-established before silage is harvested. Depending on the seeding mix, in the spring of 2021 they can burn it down to plant corn or let it grow and harvest the cover crop as forage.

Jim says the economical seeding rig, which he built for about \$4,000 not including his time, provided two other benefits they hadn’t planned on. “The speedometer calculates in hundredths of a mile, which gave us an easy way to calibrate seed application. Also, the operator’s seat is 10 ft. off the ground, so driving through the field that high up was a great way to scout our fields without using a drone.”



Jim Kreger removed the booms from an old Deere Hi-Boy self-propelled sprayer and mounted a spin spreader on the boom’s lift arms (above). Spreader raises 10 ft. high, allowing seed to launch across top of standing corn.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Kreger, 5677 Route 414, Morris, Penn. 16938 (nmkregre@hotmail.com).

## Vol. 44, No. 1, 2020

### Publisher

Scott Geyer ([scott@farmshow.com](mailto:scott@farmshow.com))

### Editor

Mark Newhall ([mark@farmshow.com](mailto:mark@farmshow.com))

### Senior Editor

Bill Gergen ([bill@farmshow.com](mailto:bill@farmshow.com))

### Contributing Editors

Jim Ruen ([edgecom@acegroup.cc](mailto:edgecom@acegroup.cc))

Dee Goerge ([dee\\_goerge@yahoo.com](mailto:dee_goerge@yahoo.com))

Lorn Manthey ([redoakridge@mac.com](mailto:redoakridge@mac.com))

### Office Manager

Anne Lash ([anne@farmshow.com](mailto:anne@farmshow.com))

### Circulation ([circulation@farmshow.com](mailto:circulation@farmshow.com))

Mary Lunde, Maddie Kammerer

**FARM SHOW** (ISSN #01634518) is published bi-monthly (6 times/year) for \$25.95 per year (\$29.95 in Canada) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., 8500 210th St. W. Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and additional post offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575; email: [circulation@farmshow.com](mailto:circulation@farmshow.com); website: [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com)). Single copy price is \$5.95 (\$7.50 in Canada). Publication No. 469490.

### In Canada:

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40032660, Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To: Dycorn Mail Svcs., 495 Berry St., Winnipeg, MB R3J 1N6; Email: [circulation@farmshow.com](mailto:circulation@farmshow.com)

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Jan.-Feb., 2020

## Company Helps Get Lame Pets Back On Their Feet

“Pets are family, and we are willing to do whatever we can to help people keep their family members around as long as possible,” says Jennifer Pratt, project manager for Walkin’ Pets, a New Hampshire company that offers a variety of wheelchairs, braces, harnesses and slings for pets with mobility problems.

“We have helped over 1 million pets,” Pratt says of the business that started in 2001. Founder Mark Robinson discovered that instead of making custom wheelchairs for specific animals, it’s much more affordable to make adjustable units.

Since chairs and other equipment are often purchased for older dogs that won’t be around long, equipment can be used for another pet or donated because it is adjustable.

Walkin’ Wheels come in 4 sizes for dogs from 2 to 180 lbs. with models for rear, front or full support.

Walkin’ Pets has much more than just wheeled carts for dogs, Pratt says. For example, a rear support leash may be enough to help get dogs up off the ground or help them manage steps and save the owner’s back. A bootie splint can help a dog that is starting to drag its back feet.

While most clients have dogs, Walkin’ Pets has also provided equipment for cats, ducks, chickens, turtles and goats.

“We just say ‘yes’ when people call and go to work,” Pratt says. “Our goal is to help as many animals as possible. If a customer calls about an animal that we’ve never worked with before, we will do whatever we can to help them become mobile.”

Walkin’ Pets sells through its online store, and some veterinarians have their equipment in stock. Their wheelchairs have been distributed to more than 200 countries through international dealers.

Check online for more information,



Walkin’ Wheels fit dogs from 2 to 180 lbs. The company also makes braces, harnesses, slings, and more for a variety of animals.



including the availability of used equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Walkin’ Pets by HandicappedPets.com, 105 Route

101A, Suite 18, Amherst, N.H. 03031 (ph 888 253-0777; [www.handicappedpets.com](http://www.handicappedpets.com)).