

Publisher's Notebook



Harold Johnson
Publisher and
Editorial
Director

Great Gift Idea For Christmas!

We've discovered there's an unselfish trait among FARM SHOW readers. They like to share good things with others.

That's why we're inviting you and other subscribers to give FARM SHOW for Christmas. Many readers who gave FARM SHOW for Christmas last year wrote to tell us that they've never given a gift which generated so much response from appreciative recipients.

Use the handy order envelope inserted elsewhere in this issue to order your Christmas gift subscriptions. Here's a recap of our special Christmas gift offer (expires Jan. 15, 1994).

When you give more than one gift subscription, the price drops.

United States: Your first gift sub is \$13.95. Each additional gift is only \$7.95. It figures out to \$21.90 for two gift subs, \$29.85 for three, \$37.80 for four, etc.

Canada: Your first gift sub is \$16.95 (Canadian dollars). Each additional gift is \$9.95. It figures out to \$26.90 for two gift subs, \$36.85 for three, \$46.80 for four, etc.

If you like, you can give the "First Gift" to yourself as a one year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives or neighbors.

With each gift sub we'll send a card, notifying each recipient of your thoughtfulness. The card and issue will be processed to arrive shortly before Christmas — if you order now!

Merry Christmas and please order today so we can give your special Christmas gift orders the prompt attention they deserve. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 469-5572).

Working Wet Fields Without Getting Stuck

Last spring's wet weather problems throughout the Midwest produced a bumper crop of innovative ways to get water-logged fields worked and seeded as soon as possible — without getting stuck.

South Dakota farmers Marvin Christensen and son Mark, of Vermillion, had good results drying off wet fields with a "soil scratcher" they made out of a 14 ft. 3 pt. chisel plow. "We removed the center row of chisels to prevent plugging in cornstalk ground and added a few extra welds and braces to beef up the old plow," explains Marvin. "We hooked it to our 4850 Deere and ran it 3 to 4 in. deep at 11 to 12 miles per hour. The combination of speed and power was the key to breaking up the crusted soil surface in rain-soaked fields without getting stuck."

Neighboring farmer Craig Nelson also had good results with a "scratcher" he rigged up from an old 18 ft. pull type disk. He equipped it with a 3 pt. from an old row-crop cultivator. He shortened the tongue and designed the drawbar hitch pin to pivot, allowing the 3 pt. to be raised and lowered without interfering with the drawbar hitch. Craig also reduced the V-shape angle of the disks to help prevent plugging on corn stalk ground, and added extra bracing. "It

wasn't very fancy but it did the job. Even had several neighbors borrow it to work their muddy fields," Craig told FARM SHOW.

Deere Introduces New "Plastic" Corn Head

One of the big new attractions at upcoming farm shows is Deere's revolutionary new plastic (polyethylene) 90-Series corn head. Watch for it!

Snouts, deck covers and fenders are made of Perma-Guide plastic that, according to Deere, offers "improved feeding and material flow, less sticking or bunching of



For service access, simply unlatch plastic snout, fold it back and tuck the point into a stirrup.

leaves and husks in damp conditions, less ear loss, faster speeds and more work capacity.

"The plastic shields weigh a third as much as metal shields. Their strength is far superior to sheet metal and they won't fade or rust.

"Unlike the tapered stalk rolls found on 40 Series models, the new corn head features straight-fluted stalk rolls that grab stalks sooner for faster, more aggressive feeding.

"Optional knife stalk rolls chop stalks into 10 to 16 in. pieces, yet require no more horsepower than straight-fluted rolls."

To gain access to the deck plate area, you simply raise the row unit point, remove two locking pins, and tuck the point into a handy stirrup. You can service the head with it resting on the ground — you don't even need to have it attached to the combine.

The new head narrows to less than 10 ft. wide for transport. All models (4 to 12 rows) feature a 16 in. dia. cross auger that can be positioned closer to the floor to prevent ears from becoming pinched between the auger and floor. All drive chains and sprockets operate in a sealed oil bath and are equipped with slip clutch protection.

Dandy Directory Of Farm Shows

Where can I get a directory of major farms shows throughout the U.S. and Canada? Many readers ask us that question and we've got the answer. Century Communications puts out a directory and it's a dandy. What's more, a limited number of copies are available on a "first come, first serve" basis.

The recently-published directory for 1993-94 gives a rundown on some 200 different farm and agriculture trade shows, expositions and fairs. For each, it lists the date, location and contact address, and the number of exhibitors and visitors at "last year's" show.

If you'd like a copy, send your check for \$5.00 to: FARM SHOW Followup, c/o Century Communications, 6201 Howard St., Niles, Ill. 60714 (ph 1 800 322-5510, ext. 331; or 708 647-1200). Make your check payable to Century Communications and ask for the 1993-94 Farm Show Directory.

Here, excerpted from the directory, are some of the major farms shows to be held in 1993-94:

Big Iron Farm Show, Sept. 14-16 (1993), West Fargo, N. Dak.; **California Farm Equipment Show**, Feb. 8-10, Tulare, Cal.; **Canadian International Farm Equipment Show**, Feb. 8-11, Toronto (Mississauga), Ont.; **Canadian Western Agribition**, Nov. 27-Dec. 3, Regina, Sask.; **Dakota**

Farm Show, Jan. 5-7, Vermillion, S. Dak.; **Electric Power & Farm Equipment Show**, Mar. 16-18, Madison, Wis.; **Empire Farm Days**, Aug. 9-11, Seneca Falls, N.Y.; **Fargo Farm Show**, Jan. 18-20, Fargo, N. Dak.; **Farm Progress Show**, Sept. 28-30, Amana, Iowa; **Farmfest**, Aug. 2-4, Redwood Falls, Minn.; **Farmer-Stockman Show**, Oct. 12-14, Lubbock, Texas; **Fort Wayne Farm Show**, Jan. 18-20, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; **Hawkeye Farm Show**, March 22-24, Cedar Falls, Iowa; **Husker Harvest Days**, Sept. 14-16 (1993), Grand Island, Neb.; **Indiana-Illinois Farm Equipment Show**, Dec. 14-16, Indianapolis, Ind.; **International Plowing Match & Farm Machinery Show**, Sept. 21-25 (1993), Walkerton, Ont.; **Iowa Pork Congress**, Jan. 18-20, Des Moines, Iowa; **Michigan Ag Expo**, July 19-21, East Lansing, Mich.

Montana Agri-Trade Exposition, Feb. 17-19, Billings, Mont.; **National Farm Machinery Show**, Feb. 16-19, Louisville, Ky.; **National Western Stock Show**, Jan. 11-23, Denver, Col.; **New York Farm Show**, Feb. 24-26, Syracuse, N.Y.; **North American Farm & Power Winter Show**, Dec. 1-3, Minneapolis, Minn.; **North American Farm & Power Summer Show**, Aug. 9-11, Worthington, Minn.; **Northwest Agricultural Show**, Jan. 25-27, Portland, Ore.; **Ohio Farm Science Review**, Sept. 21-23, London, Ohio; **Oklahoma Farm Show**, Apr. 15-17, Oklahoma City, Okla.; **Penn State Ag Progress Days**, Aug. 16-18, Pennsylvania Furnace, Penn.; **Pennsylvania Farm Show**, Jan. 8-13, Harrisburg, Penn.; **Peoria Farm Show**, Nov. 30-Dec. 2, Peoria, Ill.; **Power Show**, Jan. 28-30, Columbus, Ohio; **Siouxland Farm Show**, Feb. 22-24, South Sioux City, Neb.; **Southern Farm Show**, Feb. 2-4, Raleigh, N. C.; **Spokane Ag Expo**, Jan. 11-13, Spokane, Wash.; **Stockton Ag Expo**, Jan. 18-20, Stockton, Cal.; **Sunbelt Ag Expo**, Oct. 19-21, Moultrie, Ga.; **3-I Show**, April 21-23, Garden City, Kan.; **Triumph of Agriculture**, Mar. 8-9, Omaha, Neb.; **Western Canada Farm Progress Show**, June 22-25, Regina, Sask.; **Western Fair Farm Show**, Mar. 9-11, London, Ont.; **Western Farm Show**, Feb. 27-March 1, Kansas City, Mo.; **Wisconsin Farm Progress Days**, Sept. 20-22, Lodi/Arlington, Wis.; **World Dairy Expo**, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, Madison, Wis.; **World Pork Expo**, June 10-12, Indianapolis, Ind.

Looks Like A Deere, Runs Like A Deere, But . . .

It looks like a Deere 4840, sounds like a Deere 4840, carries the serial number of a Deere 4840, but is this really a Deere 4840?

Those are the questions Minnesota farmer Mike Simon started asking himself after he bought this one-of-a-kind tractor from a dealer in Iowa in 1990. Every time he used it, something else went wrong. None of the parts seemed to fit together and he couldn't keep it running. After what seemed like an endless series of mechanical problems, he decided to trace the history of the tractor. The trail led back through 5 Iowa dealerships, all of whom discovered after they sold the tractor that it was defective.

"It was built in 1986 by two guys who worked at the Deere plant in Waterloo, Iowa, using various parts which they acquired over a period of time. It has a 1979 4840 serial number but it's powered by a 1983 motor from a 6600 or 7720 combine engine, an injector pump off an 8650 Deere, a water manifold, rock shaft, and 3-pt. hitch all off various 50-series tractors, and it's fitted with experimental heads. Plus there are many various parts from other 20 series to 50 series tractors including 4-WD parts, a cab from a 4240, and a hood and fuel tank from a 4640," says Simon, who calls his machine John Deere's "One Piece At A Time" tractor.

Simon no longer uses the tractor, which he considers a total loss. He talked to the people at Deere who handle machinery fraud and to investigators at the Iowa attorney general's office and he also sued the dealer he bought the tractor from in Iowa. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Simon, Rt. 2, Box 208, Windom, Minn. 56101 (ph 507 628-4263).

