

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products and ideas. Carries no advertising!

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Sam, Bob & Roger Ellis mounted 24 stripped-down Max-Emerge row units on a home-built toolbar and hooked them up to a Hiniker air seeder to plant soybeans.

“THE CONTROL OF A ROW CROP PLANTER WITH THE CONVENIENCE OF AN AIR SEEDER”

Air Seeder Built From Max-Emerge Planter

By C.F. Marley

“It gives us the speed of an air seeder with the accuracy of a row crop planter,” says Sam Ellis, Chrisman, Ill., who built an air-powered 24-row, 15-in. soybean planter with help from his sons, Bob and Roger. He used it for the first time in June to no-till 600 acres of beans into untouched corn stalks.

The one-of-a-kind rig consists of a Hiniker 5800 air seeder mounted on top of a 30-ft. Rawson coultter cart with a modified Deere 7000 Max-Emerge planter trailing behind.

Ellis mounted 24 stripped-down row units on a folding toolbar he made from 7-in. sq. steel tubing. He removed the planter boxes, finger pickup units, drive chains and driveshaft. Seed tubes from the Hiniker air unit drop seed directly into the Max-Emerge seed tubes.

A friction drive wheel runs against one of the coultter cart's tires to run the air seeder's seed metering mechanism. Ellis uses a 160 hp Deere 4755 tractor to pull the new-style planter.

“We had been using the Hiniker air seeder with a cultivator to plant beans but we weren't satisfied with the seed placement and depth control. The Max-Emerge units give us precision seed placement. The combination of the air seeder and planter row units gives us the best compromise we could find between planting and drilling. We already had the planter, coultter cart, and air seeder so it didn't cost a lot to build. Although it looks complicated, it's really a relatively simple planting system.”

One of the things Ellis likes best about the new planter set-up is that there's only one seed hopper

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE: Ag World

Order Form For New Subscribers - p. 40

2 First-Of-Its-Kind “Splitter” Planter

3 World's Fastest Tree Planter

4 Tractor Loader Mounts On Pickup

5 FREE Collection Of Farm Shop Ideas

8 He Made His Own Front-End Loader

11 Home-Built Rubber-Tracked Crawler

12 “Foolproof” Combine Fire Extinguisher

17 Motion-Sensing Scarecrow

25 He Kills Gophers With Anhydrous

27 Low-Cost Source Of Baler Belting

31 “Pin Eliminator” For Case-IH Tractors

37 Twin-Row Corn Boosts Yields 30%

26 “Owner's Report” On Best, Worst Balers