Made It Myself

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"Split Shovel" Cultivator

William Dunn, Purdum, Neb., made his own "split shovels" for up-close cultivation of corn.

"I saw a picture of this type of shovel which was made 50 years ago or so. The ones I saw were much smaller but the idea was the same. I made mine by cutting an 18-in. sweep in half and welding each half to a steel plate that bolts to the cultivator shank. It lets you get very close to plants without covering them up," explains Dunn, who mounts his home-built shovels on an IHC cultivator.

The cultivator is fitted with rotary gangs of spider wheels that follow immediately behind the split shovels. The rotary gangs are also shielded from the row with steel plates mounted along one side.

Dunn says the cultivator does have some drawbacks. "It's somewhat more difficult to drive and keep on track at all times. It also takes extra time to convert the cultivator for irrigation hilling, and then back the next year to these shovels for first cultivation. We generally band an herbicide to the row and cultivate twice."

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"Hillside" 4-Bale Accumulator

A Mississippi farmer built his own 4-bale accumulator for square bales because he couldn't make use of larger 8-bale accumulators on his hilly hay ground.

M.P. Guthrie, who farms near Faust, told FARM SHOW that when he tried an 8-bale unit behind his baler, the bales slid around inside the accumulator on hillsides. He decided to build a 4-bale unit and pick up the bales with his 8-bale Farmhand bale fork, picking up two 4-bale groups at a time.

Guthrie's accumulator simply tows along the ground behind the baler. As the first bale falls to the ground, it slips through the open gate on the unit. As it slides back along the side of the accumulator, it trips a lever that moves the gate over so the second bale slides into the opposite side of the accumulator. The second bale trips another lever which moves the gate again for the third bale which, in turn, trips its own lever. As the first two bales reach the rear of the accumulator, a pair of wheels that run along the top of the bales trip another lever that lowers down in the path of the fourth bale. When the fourth bale trips this lever, the rear gate of the accumulator opens and all four bales slip out of the unit in a group, and the gate swings back down, automatically relatching itself.

"Every bale activates a lever that activates something else. There are no belts, chains or gears. It's all ground-driven by the bales pulled along the ground. Unless a bale falls sideways on a sharp turn, it's totally trouble-free," says Guthrie. He built the accumulator out of old angle iron, pipe and steel cable. The only modification to the baler was a hitch to tow the unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M.P. Guthrie, Rt. 1, Box 102B, Faust, Miss. 39074 (ph 601 469-4526).



Rig Applies Dry Fertilizer And Anhydrous Ammonia In One Pass

When the local farm service store was looking for a machine to deep, band dry fertilizer and apply anhydrous ammonia at the same time, Roger Montag, Rodman, Iowa went to work and built a "pneumatic" machine to do the job.

"Studies have shown that by deep banding you can cut dry fertilizer application rates up to 50%. Plus, with simultaneous application of anhydrous, you eliminate a pass through the field," Montag points out.

His machine applies dry fertilizer 5-in. deep and the anhydrous ammonia about 7; in. deep. It consists of a conventional toolbar with anhydrous ammonia applicating knives with "beavertail" sealers. Sitting atop the unit is a 110 cu. ft. fertilizer tank.

Montag designed the rig so fertilizer's fed by a 2-in. dia. auger, ground driven off a wheel, into a chamber. Air from an 18 1/2-in. centrifugal fan creates a vacuum that carries material through 2-in. dia. tubing to the separate knives.

"There's one tube per knife and metering is done by the auger. At the toolbar, fertilizer free falls down a tube attached to the back of the knife and into the soil just at the top of the beavertail. A series of baffles at the junction of the two tubes allows the fertilizer to fall and air to escape," says Montag.

He says he can pull the 9-row model and an anhydrous ammonia tank with an International 856.

He's selling the 9-drop units with steel tank for \$6,000. Models will also be available with stainless steel tank and 12 drops.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Montag, New Life, Inc., Box 26, Rodman, Iowa 50580 (ph 515 887-4752).

Simple Row Marker Helps Plant Even-Spaced Trees

"Once I got the idea, it took months to find the right materials to make it work," says S.W. Douty, Amherst, Virg., who made a unique row marker for planting even-spaced Christmas trees. He says it'll work to plant fruit trees or any other similarly wide-spaced crops.

Douty has more than 20,000 trees under cultivation and must replant thousands each year. He plants in rows on 6-ft. centers, spaced 6 ft. in the row for even "checkerboard" spacing that makes it easy to mow. He needed an efficient way to quickly mark out rows for planting. First he tried mounting a spike on a flat disc that was 6 ft. around. He'd plant a tree wherever the spike poked into the ground. That idea failed because the spike constantly plugged up. Then he got the idea of cutting a notch out of a wheel that would cut a slice along the proposed row. The notch leaves an un-cut piece of sod every 6 ft.

He found an old cast iron press wheel off an antique "one horse" corn planter. "It's exactly 6 ft. around and mounts on the tractor 3pt. I hung Deere tractor weights on the side of it so it'll penetrate the sod, and cut a notch in it that's a couple inches across. It slices along the length of the row. We plant a tree at each piece of uncut sod,"



says Douty. He marks each row initially with flags to set up spacing and follows each previous row with a chain row marker he rigged up. It consists simply of a metal arm, dangling a loose length of chain, that reaches out from the side of the tractor to the previously cut row. He keeps the tractor on row by dragging the chain along the row. To center the row wheel, he hangs a small weight from the wheel near the notch. When he lifts the wheel out of the ground, the notch rolls down to the bottom.

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