Photos courtesy Country Guide

Attaching the "incorporator" to his planter eliminates one trip through the field for Thiessen.

SAVES UP TO 65%, SAYS INVENTOR

Banding "Incorporator" Cuts Chemical Costs

Canadian farmer Cornie Thiessen, of Miami, Man., cut his preplant chemical costs 65% and eliminated two trips across the field by building a banding device for his 8-row Max-Emerge 7000 planter that sprays and incorporates chemicals in front of each row unit.

Thiessen, who now manufactures and sells the device , says he was inspired to develop it by his desire to get away from using Atrazine but to still apply a chemical preplant. He bands Eradicane and Lasso with the unit, eliminating separate trips to apply and incorporate the materials. After the crop emerges, he follows up with cultivation as needed.

Thiessen applies the chemicals, along with a liquid fertilizer, in 8 in. bands but can also equip the units for 10 in. bands.

The 8-row bander attaches to the front of the planter and requires that a longer hitch be installed on the planter. For each corn row there's a hood — 24 in. long, 12 in. wide and 16 in. high — that contains both the spray nozzle and a rotor that incorporates the chemical. The hoods are spaced at 36 in. intervals.

Each rotor has 4 rotating blades that incorporates chemicals into the soil. The rotors are powered by the tractor pto off a gearbox mounted on the planter hitch. Two of the units are powered directly off the oil bath chain drive, while the other units are powered by universal drives that run off the chain drives.

The chemical is sprayed onto the soil directly in front of but not hitting the rotors. Thiessen uses nozzles that spray an 8 in. band and adjusts them so spray doesn't hit the side of the hoods.

On the back of the hood, Thiessen installed a spring-loaded door that lets chunks of dirt and plant roots pass through.

He notes that his bander fits most 4, 6 and 8 row planters on the market. It bolts on the planter with 8 bolts. A setup for an 8 row planter costs $9,000 (Canadian).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cornie Thiessen, Box 92, Miami, Man., Canada ROG 1HO (ph 204 435-2093).

Banding units are pto-driven (top). Each rotor has four tiller-shaped blades (bottom).

"KEEPS PIGS OF ALL AGES TOO BUSY TO FIGHT OR BITE," SAYS MANUFACTURER

New Pig-Operated Feeder "Eliminates Tailbiting"

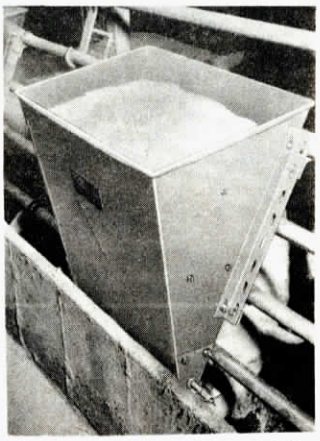
New from Drakar Engineering is a pig-operated feeder which, the manufacturer claims, virtually eliminates fighting and tailbiting.

"It's designed to make each pig work the equivalent of one hour a day for his food from weaning to market," explains Henning Hansen, designer of the feeder patterned after similar units which have caught on fast in Denmark and other European countries.

Each feeder holds about 50 lbs. of feed and serves 14 pigs from birth to marketing. "It takes freshly-weaned pigs less than an hour to learn how to operate the dispenser," says Hansen.

The amount of feed dispensed on each revolution of the nose-drive auger can be adjusted to allow for larger servings as pigs mature. "Pigs only dole out what they will clean up at each feeding so there's virtually no feed waste," Hansen notes. "To operate, the pig simply raises its head in a normal rooting action to turn the dispensing wheel. The action is much like a pig-operated nipple waterer. We've taken the same basic concept and applied it to a feeder."

The bottom auger (1½ in. dia.) is made in two halves, with a nose-driven feed dispensing wheel at the outer end of each auger section. Thus, two pigs can feed at the same time with each side operating independently. A pair of metal agitating "fingers" inside keeps feed from bridging. "We recommend that a trough be placed underneath to catch feed as it's dispensed, rather than letting it fall to the floor," says Hansen.



Pig must turn rotor, lower right, to get feed out of the hopper.

Sells for $185 (Canadian dollars). The hopper is made of fiberglass and the auger and other metal parts of stainless steel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Drakar Engineering Ltd., 1005 Pattullo Ave., Box 167, Woodstock, Ont., Canada N4S 7W8 (ph 519 539-1151).

GETS RID OF HOT SPOTS IN STORED GRAIN

Spot Mixer For Grain Bins

Here's a real labor saver — a "Spot Mixer" for grain bins without installed stirrers. The portable unit breaks and mixes up crusted and wet problem areas in grain bins and ends the strain of shoveling the grain around by hand.

Invented by Iowa farmer Frank Salter, the Spot Mixer is manufactured and sold by S & P Mfg., Missouri Valley, Iowa.

It consists of a ½ hp. electric motor mounted on an aluminum frame. The motor powers a 3 ft. long auger which you can add a two ft. extension to. The auger digs into the corn breaking the crust and mixing the grain. It draws down as far as the Spot Mixer's 14 in. square base plate. Then you pull the auger out or flip the switch that reverses the spin of the auger to back it out.

Weighing 35 lbs. without the augers attached, you carry the Spot Mixer to the top of the bin or flat storage area, pin the augers on and plug the unit in. It runs off 110 volts.

Sells for $380 including the augers. Models with ¾ hp. motors are also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, S & P Mfg., Inc., 515 No. Boston, Missouri Valley, Iowa 51555 (ph 712 642-2688).