GREAT FOR CROOKED ROWS, SIDEHILLS

New "Ridge Hugger" Keeps Planter On Row

"It's the first system that'll really guide itself to keep the planter on the ridge," says Larry Rauenhorst, Olivia, Minn., farmer and designer of the new front-mounted "Ridge Hugger."

"Crooked rows and sidehills often make it difficult to keep planter row units centered on the old ridge, and can result in wiped out rows after cultivating," Rauenhorst says.

Part of the "secret" to his invention is that it attaches to individual planter row units rather than the planter toolbar. Thus, by pivoting off of the row unit, each row of the Ridge Hugger can flex and bounce independently of each other, keeping seed centered on the ridge.

Another key feature is the bogie guidance wheels. Two angle-opposed wheels follow the old ridge, keeping the planter row unit centered and locked on the ridge.

When the planter starts to move off the ridges, one wheel of the Ridge Hugger will start to climb the ridge. This shifts all of the weight to the other angled wheel pulling the planter row unit back onto the ridge.

Horizontal discs (14 in. dia.) follow behind the guidance wheels, shearing off the top of the ridge and leaving a clean path for seed placement. Fins on the back of the discs channel dirt and weeds between the ridges.

Rauenhorst says he designed the planter attachment so everything — from disc depth and tilt, to the guidance system's down pressure — is easily adjustable. The shearing disks have one-hand adjustment and automatically lock in place.

Angled "bogie" wheels follow ridge contour while disc behind shears off top of ridge, just ahead of planter unit.

He notes that the Ridge Hugger can also be used when not planting on ridges, to clear off the top ½ in. of soil, leaving a moist surface for the herbicide.

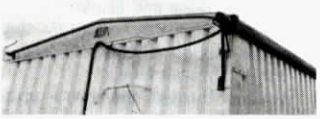
Ridge Huggers will be available soon to fit pull-type and mounted Deere, Kinze and International planters. Estimated cost is $400 per row. Optional hiller blades are also available to clean the sides of the ridges.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, K & M Mfg., Box 409, Renville, Minn. 56284 (ph toll free 800 328-1752; in Minn., call 800 992-1702).

Electric Roll-Up Tarp

"It'll fit any roll-up truck tarp," says Dale Heider, Jet Co., Inc., manufacturers of a new electric tarp unroller that'll automatically tarp and un-tarp any size truck box with the flip of a switch from the cab.

The new tarp roller consists of a kit that adapts to any existing roll-up tarp, replacing all cranks and tie-down mechanisms. If your truck doesn't have a roll-up tarp, you can make your own by fastening a tarp permanently to one side of your truck box and fitting a pipe to the other side of the tarp. The Jet Co. tarp roller motor simply fits to the end of the pipe and rides along a metal track installed on the end of the truck box. As the motor winds up the pipe, the motor and tarp "walk" across the truck box. The tarp is held under tension by tensioning ropes which pull back on the tarp. To re-cover the truck, you simply reverse the direction of the motor and, as the pipe unrolls the tarp, the tensioning ropes pull the tarp back across the truck box. It takes about 8 sec. to cover and uncover the box.



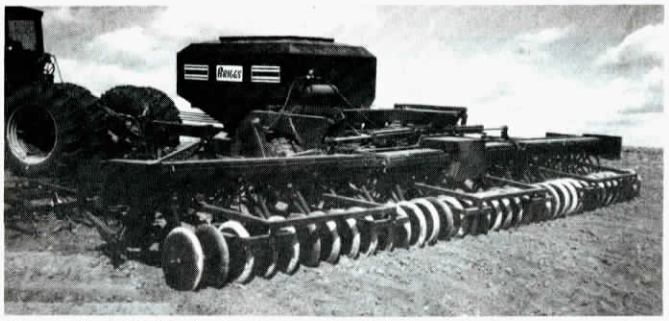
As electric motor rolls up tarp, it follows a metal track across end of truck.

"It's great in a wind because the tarp is always under tension and lays out smoothly. You never have to climb up. It does everything by itself," says Heider, noting that there are no tie-down clamps or clips needed.

The kit consists of the 12-V motor, a cab-mounted switch, the tensioning ropes, and electric cable.

The Jet Co. kit sells for $399.

For more information contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jet Co., Inc., Humboldt, Iowa 50458 (ph 515 332-3117).



New-style drill eliminates the tangle of air hoses that can wear out and plug up.

"Non-Air" Folding Grain Drill/Cultivator

"It's got the width and capacity of an air seeder without the problems of inaccuracy and poor depth control," says Stanley Briggs, inventor of a new "auger-powered" 50-ft. wide folding drill that's fitted with conventional metering and packer wheels.

At first glance, the new Briggs seeder looks like a conventional air seeder with a large 160 bu. grain tank and folding wings behind. But instead of blowing seed out to individual rows with air, the new drill uses augers to carry the seed. A pair of small augers carries seed from the tank to a shallow hopper at the rear. There, 2½-in. dia. cross augers carry seed along the length of the drill, filling the hopper until pressure plates at the ends of the wings switch the augers off. Seed is metered out of the hopper by conventional metering wheels to seed tubes which place seed behind conventional hoe drill shovels.

The 160 bu. grain tank is split into two compartments to haul both fertilizer and seed. The hopper at the rear is also split into two separate compartments each with its own auger for both seed and fertilizer. The fertilizer is metered just like the seed.

"Once the augers fill up the rear seed hopper, they automatically shut off, running only enough to keep the hoppers full. This means this seeder uses considerably less power than an air seeder, which runs all the time. Also, because it works like a conventional hoe drill with stiff shanks rather than spring tines, which can bend and cause depth and spacing to vary, it'll seed at whatever depth it's set," says Briggs. In transport, the wings fold up just like an air seeder.

A cultivator mounts ahead of the row units, directly under the grain tank. It lets you cultivate ahead of the seeder after primary tillage or it can be used for no-till in wheat stubble ground.

The prototype drill is 30 ft. wide with 10-in. spaced rows. Rows can be set up with any spacing. Briggs has also designed a double-folding 50-ft. wide drill. The new Briggs drill can be used to seed anything you'd normally plant with a grain drill. The augers are driven by tractor hydraulics.

The new drill, which is scheduled to go into production early next year, will be "competitive" in cost with air seeders.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Briggs Mfg., Inc., Minneapolis, Kan. 67467 (ph 913 392-3412).

Australian "No-Air" Seeder

According to recent reports in The Land, a popular Australian farm magazine, air seeders in that country can expect stiff competition from a new "No-air" seeding concept.

Osborne Mfg., a Western Australian firm, has come up with a new 50-ft. wide "Augerline" seeder that uses small augers to carry seed to row units rather than air. The Land reports that while air seeders have virtually taken over the Australian market during the past decade, farmers are now looking for alternatives due to the recent release of new bearded semi-dwarf wheat varieties that require more accurate seed placement.

Neil Thomson, who farms near Beckom, was the first to buy one of the new Osborne Augerline seeders, which is comparable in cost to a conventional air seeder. He says he could have "paid for a big conventional drill a couple times over" with the wheat that's failed to emerge over the past few years when planted with his air seeder.

An auger drive system on the new Osborne seeder takes seed and fertilizer from a large central hopper and carries it along a trough running the width of the machine. The auger turns on and off automatically, maintaining an even level of seed in the trough.

Thomson says the new machine is the first in Australia to offer the wide sowing capacity and trash clearance of an air seeder with the precision of a conventional drill.