"Water Check" shovels move up and down 45 to 50 times per minute to form upwards of 12,000 water-holding "troughs" per acre.

Photo shows comparison of a "Water Check'd" field (left) with conventionally tilled ground (right). Water Check can be mounted on any tillage tool.

YIELD-BOOSTING ATTACHMENT "EROSION PROOFS" TILLAGE TOOLS

Slick New Way To Stop Soil Erosion, Water Runoff

"We think it's one of the biggest-ever breakthroughs for controlling costly water loss and soil erosion," says Jack Anderson, inventor-manufacturer of a new hydraulic-driven attachment for tillage tools that stops rain and snow melt from running down hills and slopes.

Called Water Check, the yield-boosting device attaches to the rear of field and row crop cultivators, chisel plows and disks. It's equipped with shovels spaced 1 to 2 ft. apart which move up and down 45 to 50 times per minute to form upwards of 12,000 miniature water-holding "troughs" on each acre. A dam at each end of each trough prevents any water movement. Each reservoir holds approximately 8 gals. of water, which pencils out to approximately 100,000 gals. of water held and stored on each acre during rainfall or snowmelt.

"The old adage that water runs downhill is no longer true. We've proven that a Water Check'd field can handle several inches of rain in a downpour with virtually zero runoff, even on steep slopes," says Anderson, president of Town and Country Research and Development, headquartered near Marion, N. Dak. "We're conservatively estimating that Water Check will increase yields 15 to 20% because of the increased supply of crop-available water."

Anderson feels that his new invention (U. S. and foreign patents pending) is "the first practical approach to an old concept. Many water-retention devices have been introduced through the years, such as Wobble Disks, Tumblebugs, Diamond Packers and other types of dikers. But none really caught on. They were either too costly or required too much maintenance, or were too much of a hassle to operate and transport.

"Not so with Water Check. It sells for about one-fifth the cost of competing machines, and it's easy to operate, install, maintain and transport. You just plug it into the tractor hydraulics, put the lever forward and drive. There are no electric solenoid valves, no ground-driven wheels, no chains, sprockets, gears, springs or other high wear parts," says Anderson of his computer-designed new invention. "We constructed a working model on our computer and worked out all of the bugs right on the screen — before ever cutting a piece of iron."

Heart of the system is an all-hydraulic pulsator. It controls the cylinders which in turn control the up and down action of the dam-building shovels. One hydraulic pulsator can handle a number of cylinders. For example, on a 32-ft. field cultivator made up of a 16 ft. section and an 8 ft. folding wing on each side, you simply mount a Water Check gang on each wing, and one behind the center cultivator section. All three Water Check gangs are controlled by four cylinders (two on the center gang and one on each wing) which in turn are controlled by the one pulsator, mounted on the tractor. Though separate, the Water Check sections or gangs are synchronized automatically by the pulsator to form 10,000 to 12,000 reservoirs or "troughs" on every acre. The number formed is adjustable to suit the operator's preference, depending on topography, severity of the slopes and other factors.

"The Water Check's shovels, without requiring an extra trip through the field, shape and texture soil which has already been loosened by the tillage tool to which it's attached," notes Anderson. "Consequently, the dam-forming device itself requires very little extra horsepower to operate. You can operate the tillage tool on which it's mounted at normal field speed.

"Because of the continuous up and down action of its shovels and shanks, the Water Check device self-cleans when operated in straw, stalks or viny weeds. If a shovel hits a rock, it immediately lifts up to clear the obstruction," Anderson points out.

Retail cost of the Water Check system is right at $1,000 for the hydraulic pulsator package, plus $150 per ft. of machine width. For a 32 ft. wide field cultivator, for example, the price would be right at $5,800. An optional control allows length of the individual "troughs" to be adjusted "on the go" to create more water-retention reservoirs on steep hills, and fewer on gentle slopes or level land.

Because of different gang sizes required for different tillage equipment, Anderson feels most farmers will leave custom-fitted Water Check gangs permanently attached to several tillage tools —such a field cultivator, chisel plow and row crop cultivator. One pulsator unit mounted on the tractor can be used to operate all three pieces of equipment, provided they go to the field one at a time.

Anderson notes that tire tracks formed by the tractor and the planter, plus tracks made by a furrow-type planter marker, cause an unbelievable amount of water run-off and soil erosion in row crops. "Equipping your cultivator with a Water Check attachment allows you to go in right after planting to erase the tracks and virtually eliminate both water run- off and soil erosion."

Anderson believes Water Check will help put tandem and offset disks "back into the picture" as acceptable tillage tools because of its ability to stop soil erosion and water runoff. "A Water Check unit behind a disk (or any other tillage tool) leaves the soil textured to help minimize wind erosion. When disking stubble, Water Check pulls up some of the stubble to form small 'hedges' over the entire field. This, in turn, helps stop wind erosion and holds snow behind each hedge," Anderson points out.

Water Check shanks can be equipped with whatever style shovels you desire, depending on soil type, terrain, surface residue and other factors.

For more information, including a free video presentation of Water Check and how it works, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Town and Country Research and Development, RR 1, Box 81A, Marion, N. Dak. (ph 701 778-7511).

Motorcycle Runs, Looks Like A Deere

A rebuilt 1986 Harley Davidson FXR Superglide motorcycle painted John Deere green and yellow gets a lot of second looks when Steve Faford of Bourbonnais, Ill., takes it on the road.

Faford bought the motorcycle from a friend who had totaled it out in an accident. Faford repaired the motorcycle in his motorcycle shop. Several friends helped out, too, painting the frame, gas tank, and fenders green, and the wheels yellow. Deere decals were placed on the gas tank.

"Everywhere I go people always stop to look and take photos," says Faford, who restores old tractors, including many Deere models, as a sideline. "I got the idea when I restored an old Deere tractor and had leftover paint. I've only seen one or two other motorcycles painted with Deere colors. I've driven my bike to the Sturgis, S. Dak. motorcycle rally and several threshing shows, including one last year in Pontiac, Ill. I've also driven it to an antique motorcycle show in Davenport, Iowa, and to the Deere visitor center in Moline, Illinois."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steven G. Faford, RR 1, Box 183, Bourbonnais, Ill. 60914 (ph 815 937-4252).