

Made It Myself

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Extender Rods Salvage Low-Growing Soybeans

John Chatt, Tekamah, Neb., recently won an inventor's award from Ciba-Geigy for the extender rods for combine row crop heads that he designed to pick up low-growing soybean pods.

Chatt modified the snouts of his row crop head: "I bent 6-in. long pieces of 3/8-in. rod — using small electric fence posts — and welded them onto the tips of the snouts. The pieces can easily be adjusted so they almost touch the ground.

"For an investment of \$10 to \$15, hundreds of dollars can be saved by harvesting those soybeans that would otherwise have been left in the field. Saving a bushel more per acre adds up to a lot of dollars."



Add-On Handle Holds Cab Door Open

Michael Tremel, Earling, Iowa, says the easy-operating handle he installed on the door of his International tractor cab makes getting in and out a lot easier.

"Since wind, rough terrain, mud, front-mount equipment, saddle tanks, and so forth often make entering and exiting cabs difficult, I made a latch which holds the cab door on my 86 series IH tractor open. The handle is small, simple, inexpensive and reliable.

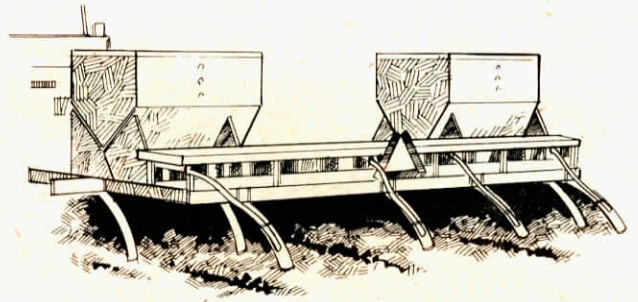
"The latch fastens to the cab door simply by removing the lower hand hole and placing the handle in the opening. Six stove bolts hold it in place. The S-shaped iron door retainer strap, which keeps the door from opening too far, must be slightly altered also. It's simple enough that most farmers could install one themselves. It will fit all models 886 through 1586, the 3288, 3588, 3788 and the latest models 30, 50 and 60

series, all of which have mid-mount cabs.

"Once the latch is in place, the door stays securely open. You seat yourself and, with one easy pull of the release lever, the latch trips and the door can be pulled shut. If you wish, the door can remain open while opening a gate, hooking to an implement, or doing any other chore," says Tremel, noting that the door latch doesn't interfere with the chrome door rails many farmers have installed on their IH cab doors.

"I've used and tested this door latch for many months on my farm and it works great. But I don't have the time or capital to develop it on my own. I'd like to find a manufacturer interested in developing the idea," says Tremel.

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Strip Fertilization Saves P & K

"A look at anyone's crop enterprise budget sheet shows that the highest operating cost is fertilizer. In 1977, after reading several articles on research at Purdue University on strip fertilization, I decided to try it to reduce costs," says Jeff Thomas, Convoy, Ohio, a recent winner in a money-saving ideas contest sponsored by Ciba-Geigy.

"According to the research, strip fertilization can safely reduce fall application of P & K up to 20% with no reduction in, and sometimes an increase in, yield. This is due to the fact that, with strip fertilization, we mix the fertilizer in with only 10 to 20% of the soil, compared to 100% with conventional broadcast application.

"I designed and mounted two

large hoppers on our 12-ft. chisel plow. Each hopper holds 1,700 lbs. of fertilizer — enough to cover a sizeable acreage before refilling. The metering system is made from dry fertilizer augers salvaged from my corn planter. The augers are driven by a hydraulic motor with a flow valve to control the rate of application. Dry fertilizer drops into delivery tubes mounted behind the chisel teeth and is spread throughout the height of the channel created by the chisel shank for proper mixing with the soil.

"By using a chisel plow, we are able to place the fertilizer where roots need it most, and also avoid tie-up of nutrients with surface residue."



Dumping Manure Spreader

"I wouldn't be without it," says Robert Carlstrom, about the dumping manure spreader he built for use on his Sinclairville, N.Y., dairy farm.

Carlstrom built the dumping spreader to get away from the problem of broken apron chains on cold winter days. Now, when the weather's cold and there's too much snow to get into the fields to spread, he simply dumps manure in a pile to be spread later.

"Even if you back a conventional spreader up to a pile to dump a load, you have to worry about catching the chain or beaters on the frozen manure already on the pile. With our dumping spreader, we can just back right into the pile and dump the load in half a minute with no problems at all," Carlstrom told FARM SHOW.

To build his dumping

spreader, Carlstrom first stripped off the beater, chains and all other components used for conventional spreading. He tried to use the spreader chassis under the New Holland 516 spreader but found that there wasn't enough strength to support a dump hoist. So, he found a junked tank spreader and used its frame. He fastened two pieces of 4-in. channel iron to the bottom of the box and fashioned a pivot point towards the rear of the box. A 6-ton scissor-type truck hoist mounts up near the front. Both the pivot point and hoist attach to the channel iron. Hoses run out from under the front of the box to attach to the pulling tractor.

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