Heintzman equipped two 41-ft. Yetter minimum-till rotary hoes with his kit to convert them into no-till rotaries that walk right through heavy "bumper crop" residues.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

No-Till Rotary Hoe Handles Heavy Trash

There are conventional rotary hoes, and factory-made rotaries designed for minimum tillage. But no manufacturer offers a rotary hoe specifically designed for no-till and heavy "bumper crop" trash.

That'll all change as soon as Rick Heintzman, South Dakota farmer and custom operator from Onaka, gets his new no-till rotary hoe conversion kit into commercial production. He's applied for a patent and hopes to have it on the market this fall.

"We've field tested it on more than 3,200 acres. We know it works," says Heintzman of his new invention. Designed to convert major brands of minimum till rotary hoes (including M & W, Yetter and Case-IH, but not Deere) to no-till, it consists of extension arms which reposition the wheels for greater trash and rock clearance, and a new-style wheel mounting axle with a built-in sealed bearing and dust protector. Benefits of the new conversion kit, according to Heintzman, include:

- Plug-proof performance in heavy trash, thanks primarily to wider spacing between the repositioned wheels.
- Rock-proof performance, thanks again to the wide wheel spacing which provides constant automatic discharge of rocks and stones, virtually eliminating wheel "lock up".
- Long life and minimum downtime, thanks to the special Heintzman-designed wheel-mounting axles with sealed bearings and protective dust covers. "We expect to get at least 10,000 acres on a set of sealed bearings and wheels," says Heintzman, who is field testing two 41 ft. Yetter minimum-till rotaries equipped with his no-till conversion kit.
- Virtually no troublesome wrapping of residue and foreign material —especially scrap twine and wire — thanks to repositioning of the wheels to make them self-cleaning. Each rear wheel operates midway between a pair of up-front wheels. Its fingers keep heavy trash moving through without plugging, even under wet conditions.
- Combining rotary hoeing with conventional, minimum or no-till lets you control weeds in small grain or row crops with little or no dependence on chemical weed killers.

Kit includes extension arms which reposition wheels for greater residue and rock clearance, and new-style mounting bracket with built-in sealed bearing and dust protector.

"Timing and weather are the key factors. You've got to be ready to roll when conditions are right — without downtime, which can be costly.

"I've been rotary hoeing wheat the past four years. For the past two years, I haven't sprayed my wheat at all. I make one pass with my rotary at the 2-leaf stage and then make a second pass a week later. My wheat enters the food chain with no chemicals from planting to harvest and is environmentally safe," says Heintzman.

He anticipates that his conversion kit will be commercially-available this fall at approximatley $12 to $15 per wheel. He's also exploring the possibility of incorporating his conversion kit into a complete factory "built from scratch" no-till rotary hoe.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Heintzman, Rt. 2, Box 265, Onaka, S. Dak. 57466 (ph 605 447-5813, or 5821 evenings).

INCREASES REAR WHEEL SETBACK FOR BETTER TRASH CLEARANCE

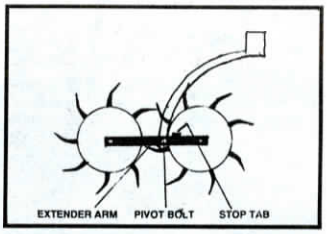
Wheel Extender Kit For Deere Rotary Hoes

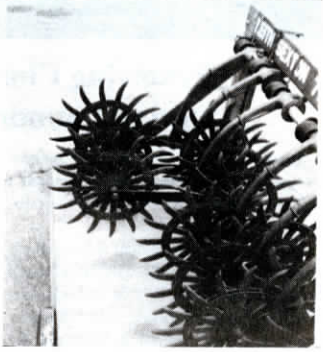
New rotary hoes have come on the market in the last year with increased clearance between rows of wheels (M&W, Yetter) but if you already own a Deere 400 series rotary hoe, you can use a simple new farmer-developed refit kit to get the same results.

Keith Sexton, who farms near Rockwell City, Iowa, mounts extender arms between the front and rear rows of wheels, eliminating most plugging due to surface residue. "Once you make the modification, you can even go through heavy corn stubble with no problems at all," he says, noting that the kit allows the back fingers on the front wheel to interact with the front fingers on the back wheel, dislodging trash that accumulates between the wheels.

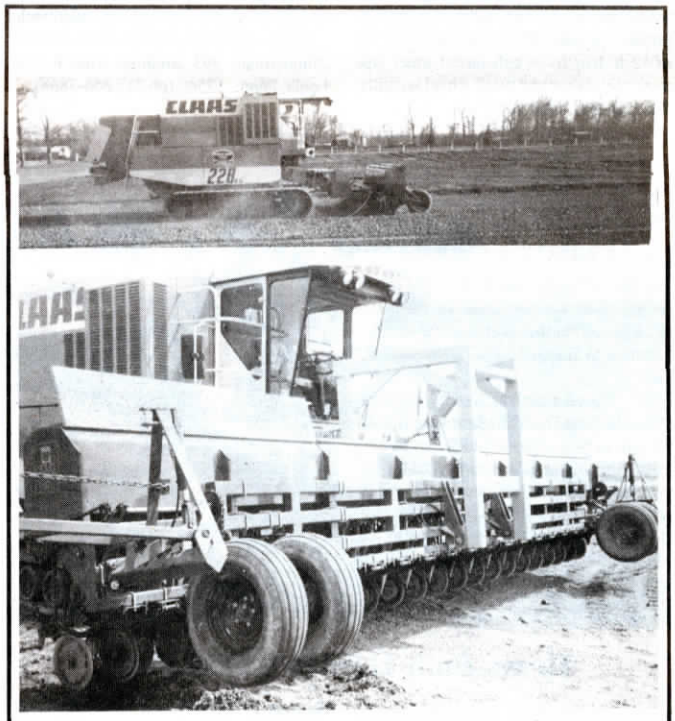
Sexton's kit consists of 16-in. long extender arms that replace the 7 1/2-in. long factory arms that attach the rear wheels to the front wheels. Sells for $6.50 per extender arm, or $364 for a 30-ft. hoe (56 arms). It takes about 3 hrs. to install the new arms on a 30-ft. hoe.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Sexton, Rt. 3, Box 57, Rockwell City, Iowa 50579 (ph 712 297-7934).





Kit consists of 16-in. long extender arms that mount between front and rear rows of wheels, replacing 7 1/2-in. long factory arms.



Grain Drill Mounts On Combine

Last year FARM SHOW told you about an Iowa farmer who mounted a 12-row Case-IH air planter on front of his 1990 New Holland combine (Vol. 15, No. 6). Now Claas of America, Inc., and Purdue University engineers have teamed up to mount a Great Plains 3-pt. 15-ft. grain drill on front of a Claas 228 combine equipped with Caterpillar rubber tracks. Two carrier arms attach to the combine feederhouse and run up and over drill to the front side. Engineers have also experimented with carrier brackets that attach to the back side of drill. Their goal is to come up with a simple system that requires no modification of either combine or drill so both can be quickly converted back to conventional use. Experiments continue but, if successful, Claas may eventually offer drill or planter mounting brackets as optional equipment on all their combines.