



Easy Way To Empty Planter Seed Boxes

If you change seed corn varieties a lot or grow corn in test plots, you'll like this planter modification made by Jay Strom, Guelph, Ontario.

Strom grows about 50 acres of sweet corn in 70 different plots, one for each day of his marketing season, so he has to empty the seed boxes often on his Deere 7000 planter. The problem was that whenever he tipped the box upside down in order to dump out unused seed, a handful always got trapped inside the plastic boot over the finger pickup unit. As a result he had to shake the box up and down several times before all the seed fell out.

He solved the problem by simply cutting a 3-in. long, 1-in. wide hole on top of the boot, allowing all the seed inside the boot

to fall out as soon as the box is tipped up.

"All of the seed usually comes out with one tip of the box, and if the fingers are still holding any seed I can see it," says Strom.

"If I plan to put more than a couple of pounds of seed in the hopper, I cover the hole in order to keep seed from falling into the fingers and overloading them. A flap of rubber inner tube or some duct tape will do the job. New boots sell for only about \$12 apiece so it wouldn't be very expensive to replace the modified boots if I ever wanted to."

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Skip Row System Works Great For Specialty Corn Grower

Until Mike Dwyer came up with a skip row system for his sweet corn, popcorn and Indian corn, he harvested by hand and had no way to spray standing crops. Now, the Wallingford, Conn., specialty corn grower is able to make the most of his Deere 650 utility tractor, using it to both pick and spray his corn.

He plants with a 4-row (30-in.) Deere planter, leaving a 54-in skip after every two passes with the planter.

The skips are just right for maneuvering his Deere 650, which has a 48-in. rear wheel width. He sprays for earworms with a home-built spray rig and picks corn with a home-built pull-type picker.

His spray rig consists of a used 21-ft. Century spray boom on a home-built frame that mounts on the 3-pt. hitch of Dwyer's Deere 650 so he can raise height to 6 ft.

Dwyer's picker consists of a prototype 1-row Byron sweet corn head mounted on the frame of a Deere 34 forage chopper. He cut the chopper frame down by 18 in., to just under 7 ft. wide, and fitted it with narrow 650 by 15-in. car tires so he doesn't run down any rows when harvesting.

He bolted a plywood hopper with capacity for 500 ears of corn on the back axle of the chopper.

He uses the chopper's gear box to drive the picker off the tractor's pto, running at a slow 200 rpm's to avoid damage to corn. A helper sits on back of the picker to keep corn moving to the rear of the hopper.

Dwyer built his sprayer for \$350 and his corn picker for \$2,600.

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Hi-Boy Cart Saves Irrigated Corn

"With corn at \$3 per bu., I estimated my new approach would pay for itself in two years, and it has," says Larry Shrock about a system he developed to reduce the amount of corn he ran down every time he pulled his irrigation hose across his fields.

The Middletown, Mo., farmer uses a German-built Hudig gun-type irrigator to irrigate 120 acres of corn on 36-in. rows. Until two years ago, he used a Deere 4020 to tow the system's gun cart. "Because there was only 3 ft. of ground clearance underneath the cart, we mashed down 2 acres of 150 bu. corn every time we used it, typically four or five times a season," he says.

Shrock found a solution to the problem when he located a Hahn 770 hi-boy sprayer equipped with a 50 hp 4-cyl. Ford diesel engine. He bought it in June of 1995 for \$2,000.

He used 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing to extend the tricycle-shaped cart's rear legs from 3 ft. to 6 1/2 ft. off the ground. He used 6 in. sq. tubing to make a crossmember on top of the cart and welded the gun to it. He braced the cart in the rear and equipped it with a guard welded to the rear of the crossmember to keep corn bent over until the gun passes.

He connects a chain and clevis to the front of the cart to pull it with the hi-boy. The additional 3 1/2 ft. of clearance prevents damage to corn, even when it reaches 12 or 13 ft. tall.

"We don't mash any corn down anymore," says Shrock. "It works great."

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Reversed Fins On Combine Make It Easier To Bale Straw

Everett Anderson wanted to bale the straw behind his 1981 Massey Ferguson 860 combine but he had a problem. He could slide the straw chopper ahead, allowing the straw to drop behind the combine, but that left a swath as wide as the combine and too wide for the baler's pickup.

To solve the problem, he unbolted the chopper knives and slid them forward out of the way, then unbolted the three deflector fins on the right side of the combine and moved them to the left side. He moved the fins on the left side to the right side. The repositioned fins now deflect straw inward

instead of outward, leaving a windrow that's less than 4 ft. wide.

"The windrow is narrow enough that even heavy straw is easy to bale," says Anderson. "The straw chopper continues to rotate and straw still goes through it, but it doesn't get chopped up because the knives have been removed. It takes only about 15 minutes to do. I think the same idea would work on other older model combines."

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Post Extensions Made From Used Pipe

Larry Ulsaker, Medora, N. Dak., found a low-cost way to lengthen conventional "T"-type fence posts by using short lengths of steel pipe and short sections of T-post.

"The pipe serves as a small collar to support the add-on section of 'T' post on top of the existing post. I came up with the idea when I decided to put buffalo in my pasture and needed to add a fourth wire onto the existing 3-wire fence," says Ulsaker. "Most of the fence posts were wooden and were already high enough to add a fourth wire. However, a few of them had broken and

been replaced by steel 'T' posts that weren't tall enough to add an extra wire."

Ulsaker used a chop saw to cut a 7 to 10-in. length of 1 3/8-in. inside diameter pipe. He cut a 3-in. long slit into each end of the pipe on one side, offsetting the slits slightly, and hammered the pipe onto the top of the post. He then hammered a 7 to 10-in. length of T-post down into the pipe.

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Heavy-Duty Rubber Belts Provide Loader-Proof "Floor" Under Silage Pile

Gerven Klompmaker had trouble with his front-end loader digging into the ground whenever he loaded silage out of his plastic-covered silage piles. The dirt and rocks were hard on his silo blower.

The New Brunswick farmer solved the problem by placing heavy rubber belts on the ground under each pile. He bought five 200-ft. long, 3-ft. wide, and 3/4-in. thick belts from a local mine and rolled them out on the ground parallel to each other, leaving about a 3-ft. wide strip between each belt. Then he made two 80-ft. long piles of silage, placed end to end, on top of the belts and covered the piles with plastic. When loading out silage, the corners of the bucket ride on top of the belts to keep the bucket from digging into the ground. The tractor tires run on the belts without making any ruts.

"I've used this idea for three years and it has worked great," says Klompmaker. "I refill my upright silos in winter from the piles, which are about 80 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 6 ft. high. I make two piles because the plastic that I use to cover them is available only in 100-ft. lengths."

"I paid \$800 for the five belts which I bought at a junkyard. They were originally used with a rock crusher. I tried to find more belts but I couldn't. They're too slippery to be used as cow mats. The belts won't rust or rot, and they can't move when the bucket is down because the tractor tires hold them down. Each belt weighs about 2 tons. I used the loader to move them."

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