

"IT'S MORE RELIABLE THAN THE ORIGINAL AND COST LESS THAN \$100 TO BUILD"

## Home-Built Baler Monitor

Joe Roske didn't want to spend the money to have the computerized monitor on his Case-IH 3650 round baler repaired, so the Hubbard, Sask., farmer decided to build his own replacement monitor.

"It doesn't operate quite as automatically as the original one, but it works just as good and cost less than \$100 to build," says Roske. The monitor controls the bale-tying operation.

The new monitor looks identical to the original one except that it's equipped with a spring-loaded switch instead of a button. Roske threw away the original monitor and bought new toggle switches, indicator lights, buzzers, and circuit breakers at a local hardware store. He used 14-ga. metal to build a control box that contains the wiring for the unit.

"I've used it for two years now and it works great," says Roske. "I built it because the computer chipboard on the original monitor continually burned out due to a short in the wiring. I had to have it repaired three times at a cost of \$100 to \$500 each

time. Even after it was repaired it never worked right. A new replacement monitor would have cost about \$825.

"On the original monitor the operator held a button to set the number of wraps, but on my monitor I use a spring-loaded switch that controls the motor's polarity. Flipping the switch to the left reverses the motor and puts the twine tie arms into motion. Flipping the switch to the right makes the motor go forward which causes the twine tie arms to move over a few inches. Letting the switch go cuts off power to the motor.

"It took a while to figure out the wiring, and I had a lot of trouble finding a plug-in for it. Case-IH wouldn't sell me a separate plug-in. I finally salvaged one from a wrecked truck. The monitor is equipped with a 20-amp circuit breaker so if there's ever a short in the wiring it won't burn anything out."

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Goeken stripped the Cyclo planter down and added row units consisting of a coulter, knife and double disc sealer.

SADDLE TANKS MOUNT ON TOOLBAR, ELIMINATING NEED TO PULL A NURSE TANK

## He Uses "Planticator" To Strip-Till Fertilizer

Stanley Goeken, Delavan, Ill., converted an old International 500 Cyclo 12-row, 30-in. planter toolbar into a pull-type, 12-row strip-till toolbar and mounted a pair of tractor saddle tanks on top of it, eliminating the need to pull a nurse tank. "I call it a 'Planticator' because it's a planter turned into a strip-till applicator," says Goeken. "It's totally self-contained so I don't have to hook up a nurse tank or any other equipment. I use it to clear and work strips of soil while applying 28% liquid nitrogen in the fall. The cleared strips warm up fast in the spring which lets me plant earlier. Deep banding fertilizer under the row makes it more available to plants. I've been able to reduce my total nitrogen use by 20% or more and still get yields comparable to conventional tillage methods.

"With a few modifications I can also use it to sidedress nitrogen in corn the following spring. My total cost, including planter, row units, saddle tanks, and pump, was

about \$5,000."

Goeken stripped the planter down to the frame and added row units that consist of a coulter followed by a knife and a set of double disc sealers. Liquid fertilizer is deep banded directly behind the knives. The toolbar still has the original planter markers.

A ground-driven pump that's hooked up to the planter's original drive chains and sprockets delivers fertilizer to each knife. Redball monitors let Goeken see at a glance if the fertilizer is being applied properly.

To convert the rig for sidedressing nitrogen he removes half the knives and then moves the remaining ones between the rows. He also blocks off the hoses that lead to the removed knives. "Removing the extra knives saves fuel and soil moisture," notes Goeken.

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## They Put Big Flotation Tires On "Anything That Moves"

"If it moves, we can put flotation tires on it," says an Indiana company that specializes in putting big tires on everything from skid steer loaders right up to the biggest combines.

Option Flotation Tire & Wheel, Otterbein, Ind., showed off a few of its applications at the recent Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition at Moultrie, Ga.

"We've equipped center pivots and Spra-Coups with flotation tires, and next season we're even going to do a Great Plains drill," says founder Gary Rothrock. "Of course, we do a lot of tractors, grain carts, pull-type sprayers and combines. We use either 73 by 4400 by 32-in. or 68 by 5000 by 32-in. tires, the biggest flotation tires manufactured, on combine drive wheels."

The company fabricates specially expanded wheels to fit the tires, as well as fitting disks, plates and rims to match the implement's original bolt pattern.



The company can completely retrofit most any piece of machinery in about two weeks, he says.

Cost of retrofitting a combine, for example, can run as high as \$10,000.

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## Computerized Employment Service Matches Employers And Employees

Business is booming for a nationwide computerized employment system that matches up ag employers and employees.

Kennan & Co., of Garden City, Kan., says its AgJobsUSA has become the leading computerized employment service for the nation's beef cattle industry. Since it was started up in 1992 it has served more than 3,500 cattlemen and farmers.

"In a recent survey, using a scale of 1 to 10, employees gave the system an 8.6 average rating," says Kenneth Webster. "Employers also gave the system high marks. We're now in the process of expanding our service to dairy and pork producers as well."

The system matches employees' interests and abilities with agricultural employers' needs for quality long term help. In the system, 113 job descriptions are identified by four-digit codes. Each Friday morning, a custom job list for each subscribing employee is printed and mailed. These reports show names, addresses, and phone numbers for openings in each job code for which the employee indicates an interest.

An employee's availability is made known only when the employee personally makes contact with a potential employer. Notification of the availability of all employer job openings will be sent to all participating employees who indicate an interest in filling such an opening.

An employee search remains in the system for 60 days unless it is filled and canceled. If an employee who has not taken a job notifies AgJobsUSA within 10 days of the original 60-day deadline, the company can either extend the search for another 60 days without additional charge or send the applicant a one-time voucher which allows him/her to use the service free for another 60 days at a later date. After 60 days, if an extension or voucher is not requested, the service is canceled.

Once the employee receives a report of job openings, it becomes his/her responsibility to contact by phone, fax, or mail, employers with job openings.

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