



A 100-hp. high pressure manure pump moves manure through 6-in. aluminum irrigation pipe to fields up to 1½ miles away.

FLEXIBLE HOSE "FEEDS" TRACTOR-MOUNTED INJECTOR

He Pumps Manure To Fields 1½ Miles Away

by Dianne L. Beetler

Every year, Gary Main's 400 feeder cattle and 6,000 market hogs produce enough waste material to fill a million-gallon holding tank twice. "Disposing of liquid manure is my biggest headache," the Altona, Ill. farmer says.

Alton Irrigation, Inc., of Rock Falls, Ill., comes to the rescue of farmers like Main, who in the past has used the conventional method of pumping liquid manure into a 3,000-gallon tank spreader and then injecting it into the soil. Main says it took 10 days to empty the holding tank, and the heavy spreader's trips across the field contributed to soil compaction.

Alton Irrigation accomplished the job in three days by pumping manure through irrigation pipe and flexible tubing to a tractor-mounted applicator that injects the manure directly into the ground.

On Main's farm, liquid manure was pumped from the holding tank through 6,000 ft. of 6-in. aluminum irrigation pipe at a rate of 450 gal. per min. When pumping a shorter distance, the rate is 600 gal. per min., according to company president Rick Alton.

A 100 hp. high-pressure manure pump was used to pump the manure from the holding tank to fields up to 1½ miles away. Alton says the company uses several different brands of pumps.

For manure that contains bedding he sometimes uses a chopper pump. The irrigation pipe runs along ditches, along fence rows and through culverts to reach fields.

In the field, two 660-ft. sections of 4½-in. flexible hose were used. One hose attaches to an applicator mounted on the rear of a tractor and allows the tractor to travel about 1,500 ft. up and down the field. Another tractor moves the second hose approximately 40 ft. after every two rounds made by the applicator, which allows manure to be injected over 40 acres at once without shutting off the pump.

Alton Irrigation built the 10-ft. wide applicator with five 24-in. sweeps that inject the waste materials 6 in. beneath the soil surface. Alton says the company can build injector manifolds to mount on any brand of chisel plow. The manure usually is applied at a rate of 10,000 to 15,000 gal. per acre. Alton recommends that farmers have a soil test and an analysis of the manure to determine the rate at which it should be injected.

Alton Irrigation provides a two-man crew to do the job and asks the farmer to provide two tractors and one employee. Field workers communicate via walkie talkie with the pump operator. It usually takes a full day to lay the pipe and hoses. In one 10-hr. day on Main's farm, the crew applied 270,000 gal. of liquid manure, the equivalent of 90 loads with Main's tank spreader.

Main says if he were using the tank spreader, he would consider 60,000 gallons spread "a real good day."

Alton says he can pump liquid manure as far as two miles. "The farther you go, the less amount you can apply," he notes. "Beyond two miles, you're approaching the limit of what is economically feasible."

He says the work can continue until temperatures fall to approximately 20° Fahrenheit. He has injected the manure into 8 in. of snow which soon melted into the ground.

Alton says that although his system would cost from \$20,000 to \$50,000 to buy, farmers who employ his company pay no more, and possibly less, than they would to spread the manure by more conventional methods. "The real benefit is that we can go in and in two days' time, do what a farmer can do in two weeks," he adds.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alton Irrigation, Inc., 8096 Luther Rd., Rock Falls, IL 61071 (ph 815 438-2730).



A 4½ in. flexible hose carries manure to tractor-mounted injector.

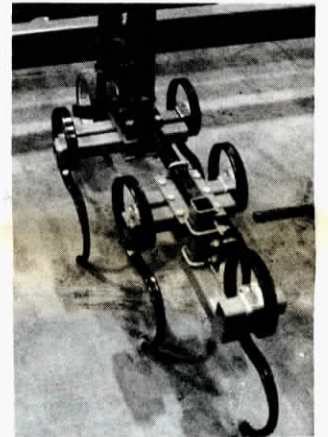
UPDATE OLDER MODELS WITH S-TINES

Conversion Kit For Row Crop Cultivators

"Our quick-mount kits let you easily convert obsolete trip shank, C-tooth, and spring tooth row crop cultivators to more efficient Danish S-tines," says Jerry Johnson, president of Jerry Johnson & Associates, manufacturers of update kits for older cultivators.

Kits completely replace the old shank gangs. You can choose either 3, 5 or 7 tines per row. Models are available to fit Deere, IH, International Vibra-Shank, Glencoe, Burch, and most other makes. You can completely convert an older 6-row cultivator for as little as \$895. Johnson also makes a kit to convert older wide-row cultivators to narrow-row, 15-in. soybeans. It sells for about \$50 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Johnson & Associates, Box 82, Paxton, Ill. 60957 (ph 217 379-4155).



Refit kit completely replace old shank gangs.

"Find-It-By-Phone" Buy-Sell Service

You can buy or sell nearly anything related to agriculture using a new "find-it-by-phone" buy-sell service started by a pair of farmers headquartered in Aurora, Mo.

Members of the service pay a \$25 subscription fee to receive a toll-free number that give access to operators running a central computer. The operators search the listings for you and give you the names and addresses of the owners of anything you might be interested in, and also tell you how many miles you would have to travel to reach that seller.

Jim Wrinkle and Chuck Larson, the farmers who are organizing the new DataQuest service, say they plan to start in 21 Midwestern states and then expand to the rest of the country. "We plan to have hundreds of thousands of members by the time the service goes on line in April. We've

been recruiting members since last October and response has been fantastic. In addition to individual farmer-members, many farmer-organizations and companies have joined," says Larson.

Once you become a member, you can list equipment, livestock or commodities for sale for about 50 cents per day for items selling for less than \$1,000 and about \$1.00 a day for items that sell for \$10,000, and \$2.00 a day for items that sell for \$20,000 or more.

In addition to the computer listings that'll be available by phone, a weekly computer print-out of all listings will be available by mail for an extra charge.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DataQuest, Rt. 1, Box 232, Aurora, Mo. 65605 (ph 417 723-5665).