

8-Row, 38-In. Planter Converted To 10-Row, 30-In. Planter

Two years ago Cletus Clement, St. Anne, Ill., bought a new 8-row 38-in. planter and converted it to a 10-row, 30-in. planter in order to gain the yield benefits of 30-in. rows without spending more money on a larger planter.

"My old 8-row, 38-in. planter, which I had always used to plant 36-in. rows, was seven years old and ready to be traded. I wanted to switch to 30-in. rows, but I didn't want to buy a 12-row 30-in. planter because it costs about \$6,000 more than an 8-row model. I couldn't justify that expense on my 900-acre farm. Also, if I had bought a 12-row planter, I would have had to trade in both of my 8-row cultivators and my 8-row rotary hoe.

"On the other hand, I didn't want to buy an 8-row 30-in. planter because it would have slowed planting down. An 8-row 30-in. planter loses two rows for every 1 1/2 rounds compared to an 8-row 38-in. planter. Since the main frame of an 8-row planter is basically the same one used on a 12-row planter, it's heavy and wide enough to carry ten 30-in. rows. So far it has worked out great."

Clement modified the planter for 30-in. rows by moving the eight row units closer together and adding two row units, one on each outside wing of the planter. To make room for all of the row units he had to reposition some of the carrying wheels as well as one of the planter's two transmis-

sions, which he unbolted and slid over about 10 in. Each outside wing of the planter had originally consisted of two row units driven off the transmission by a 38-in. long hexagon drive shaft. To drive the additional row unit on each wing, Clement replaced the 38-in. long drive shaft with a 50-in. long shaft which operates all three row units.

Clement added two gangs to his cultivator and set all gangs on 30-in. rows. He traded his 4-row corn head in for a 6-row 30-in. corn head. "The key to combining 10-row planted corn with a 6-row corn head is to plant as straight as possible and stay within a couple of inches of the marker," says Clement, who notes that he didn't have to modify his 8-row rotary hoe at all for narrow rows.

The planter came factory equipped with four toolbar-mounted fertilizer boxes. There wasn't room to add a fifth full fertilizer box so Clement mounted half of a fertilizer box onto each end of the toolbar. He made each box by cutting one full box in half and "telescoping" the halves inside each other.

Clement also rewired his Dickey-John population monitor to read off 10 rows instead of eight.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cletus Clement, RR 2, Box 133, St. Anne, Ill. 60964 (ph 815 427-6602).

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55041).

Harold M. Jonsson, Editor/Director

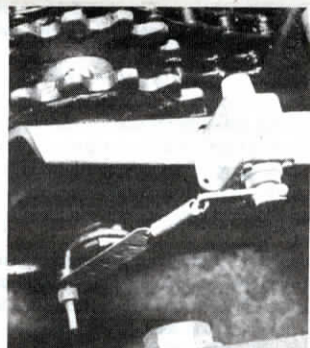
Used Bale Counter Makes Great Acre Counter For Corn Planter

"A used bale counter works great as an acre meter on my Deere 7000 corn planter," says Joseph Daunt, Listowel, Ontario.

Daunt bolted the bale counter to the frame of his planter's seed drive assembly, just above the rear drive countershaft. The bale counter operates off the countershaft, counting the number of shaft revolutions. Daunt then uses a calculator to translate the number of shaft revolutions into the number of acres planted.

"It's a low-cost alternative to commercial electronic acre counters that cost a lot more," says Daunt, who purchased the used bale counter for \$15 from a machinery dealer.

To install the bale counter, Daunt fashioned a spring-type crank out of heavy fencing wire and slipped one end of the wire through a hole in the end of the shaft and then looped the wire around the shaft a couple of times. A strip of metal and a spring connect the bale counter arm to the crank. As the shaft turns, it moves the crank up and down, activating the bale counter with each shaft revolution. "The rear drive countershaft rotates at a constant speed relative to the planter wheels and rotates only when the planter is in the



ground, so I don't have to stop and start the counter each time the planter is raised and lowered," says Daunt.

Daunt took into account the number of fingers on the planter's plateless mechanism and the sprocket size, then used the planting population chart in the owner's manual to determine the number of revolutions the countershaft must make to cover one acre. His 4-row, 30-in. planter makes 545 revolutions per acre.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joseph Daunt, RR 1, Listowel, Ontario, Canada N4W 3G6 (ph 519 291-1594).



Conveyor Loads Silage Into Bale Feeders

"I built this 8-ft. long extension conveyor on my forage wagon to unload corn silage into round bale feeders when pastures 'peeter out' in late summer. It saves a lot of forking," says Gabriel Verleu, Montague, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Verleu used plywood to build the bottom and sides of the 2-ft. wide conveyor, which he added to his front-unload

forage box two years ago. He used the floor chain from an old manure spreader and bolted on 2-ft. long angle irons to serve as chain crossbars. The chain revolves around two pulleys, one on bottom and one on top. The bottom pulley came from the old manure spreader and the top pulley from an old hay loader. Verleu added a separate sprocket and chain to

drive the extender conveyor's floor chain. He raises and lowers the unit with a block and tackle attached to the side of the wagon. The conveyor folds up flat against the wagon for transport.

"We grow six acres of corn for silage which we feed fresh from the field for two months, unloading it into our three round bale feeders," says Verleu. "Before I built the extension conveyor, I unloaded

silage by hand from a hay wagon into the round bale feeders. One drawback is that the extension conveyor adds about 30 in. to the wagon's width, but the savings in labor more than make up for this inconvenience."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gabriel Verleu, RR 3, Montague, Prince Edward Island, Canada C0A 1R0 (ph 902 838-4658).