



The 4-WD pickup was stripped down as much as possible to save weight and rides on 18.4 by 16 flotation tires, allowing it to float on top of ground without leaving deep tracks.

FLOTATION TIRES RIDE OVER WET GROUND WITHOUT LEAVING TRACKS

Self-Propelled Sprayer Built From Old Pickup

"It's not fancy, but it works. It barely even leaves a track on wet ground," says Gehrig Minick, Saluda, S.C., about the self-propelled "high flotation" sprayer he built out of an old Dodge pickup.

Minick started with a 1966 Dodge 4-WD pickup that he already had. He stripped it down to the frame, 318 cu. in. V-8 gas engine, 4-speed transmission, and steering wheel. He made a steel dash and hood to protect the engine and used a piece of heavy screen to make a grille. The seat is off an old Deere combine. He equipped it with 18.4 by 16 flotation tires by welding the centers from the pickup wheels into the flotation tire wheel rims, splitting the wheel rims in half and

welding spacers into them in order to widen them out.

He used 3-in. channel iron to build a frame that supports a 300-gal. spray tank behind the seat. The 30-ft. boom is made from angle iron. To change boom height he simply adjusts the position of bolts in the boom carrier frame. A stand welded onto the back of the frame makes the job easy.

"It really works well on wet ground and lets me spray almost any time, any place," says Minick. "I use it mainly to spray fertilizer and herbicides on wheat in the spring when the ground is often very wet. A conventional tractor-pulled sprayer would leave ruts and could even get stuck whereas my



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sprayer floats on top of wet ground without leaving any tracks. I saved a lot of weight by stripping the pickup down as much as possible.

"I spent less than \$2,000 to build it. The sprayer's positive displacement pump was the biggest expense. The pump is chain-driven off the pickup driveshaft so it always applies the same amount of chemical no matter how fast I'm going. I cut the driveshaft and had a machine shop weld a sprocket onto the front yoke to power the sprayer pump. It still has

the pickup's original high and low range shift levers. Because of the flotation tires I generally go in low range in order to keep from going too fast. The pickup's springs give it a smooth ride and allow the booms to float over rough ground.

"I put the pump in or out of gear by using a lever connected to a clutch that I removed from the pump and mounted next to the seat."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gehrig Minick, Rt. 4, Box 148, Saluda, S.C. 29138 (ph 864 445-3556).



Plastic inflatable solar collector hooks up to the intake side of virtually any existing aeration fan. Air pressure moves air through the solar collector and into the bin.

DRY GRAIN WITH POWER OF THE SUN

Solar Grain Dryer Makes U.S. Debut

"With a conventional grain dryer, you start spending more money as soon as it's installed. With ours, you start saving money as soon as it's up and running," says Dale Peasley about his company's solar grain drying system.

The system was unveiled in the U.S. for the first time at the recent Big Iron Show in Fargo, N. Dak.

It consists of an all-plastic, inflatable solar collector, tie downs, 25 ft. of flexible duct and adapters for virtually any existing aeration fan.

You simply connect the inlet side of the dryer up to the pressure side of the fan and the outlet tube to the intake side of the fan. Air pressure moves air through the solar collector and into the bin.

The solar heater can increase air temperature by as much as 27 degrees F on a sunny

day, while humidity can be decreased by as much as 50 percent. The system produces from 40,000 to 200,000 BTU's per hour, depending on sun intensity and airflow.

Compared with natural air drying alone, dry-down time can be reduced by as much as 30 percent with use of the collector, Peasley notes. The only moving part on the system is a pressure relief manifold which installs on the duct from the fan to prevent overinflating the collector.

The system is available in two sizes - 12 by 24-ft. for up to 3 1/2 hp fans and 12 by 48-ft. for fans up to 7 1/2 hp. Sells for \$419 and \$579 (U.S.), respectively.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Delmas Manufacturing Ltd., Box 500, Delmas, Sask. Canada SOM OPO (ph 306 445-5562; fax 9842).



"Prop" units bolt behind ripper shanks.

Simple Way To Trap Moisture For Crops

At first glance this new add-on attachment for rippers looks like a boat propeller. But it's really a simple new way to trap moisture in fields between row crops.

The "Prop", from Sunco Manufacturing, has three blades which are splayed out at a 45 degree angle from the hub. They dig little water-catching dams as they work through the soil behind ripper shanks. Because of the way the blades are angled, they dig shallower, smoother dams than other such devices on the market, says Sunco. That means a smoother trip through the field at harvest, the company notes.

The Prop bolts onto the back of the shank and makes a 36-in. dia. arch as it turns, forming reservoirs in the soil. Reservoirs are generally 6 to 8 in. deep and improve crop uniformity.

Different size shims allow installation on 1 by 3-in., 1 by 4-in., 1 1/4 by 7-in. and



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1 1/4 by 8-in. shanks.

Sells for \$565 per row plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sunco Marketing, P.O. Box 2036, North Platte, Neb. 69103 (ph 308 532-2146; fax 534-0938).