

## Cheap New Way To Control Beavers

"It's a long-term, inexpensive solution to beavers as compared to shooting or trapping, which only work for the short-term," says Skip Lisle about his new method for preventing beavers from damming culverts and washing out roads.



"Beaver Deceiver" consists of wooden fence posts in a trapezoidal configuration covered with mesh wire.

Lisle uses a two-pronged approach to stop damming. One is to quiet the culvert because the sound of running water stimulates damming behavior. The other is to build a special fence, or "Beaver Deceiver", on the upstream end of the culvert.

The "Beaver Deceiver" is a trapezoidal-shaped fenced-in area about 15 ft. long and 15 ft. wide. Treated cedar posts, 5 in. in dia., are placed every 5 ft. and sunk as deep as possible. Six ga. wire mesh in 5 by 10-ft. sheets with 6 in. sq. grids, is stapled to the posts. The mesh is small enough to exclude beaver, but not most other animals that travel in streams.

The trapezoidal configuration of the structure prevents beavers from building dams at a right angle to the water flow, says

Lisle, a wildlife biologist for the Penobscott Indian Nation in Argyle, Maine.

Lisle has built more than 20 "Beaver Deceivers" in the last two years with great success. They can be built as big or small as necessary depending on the size of the culvert.

The device can be set up in a day and ranges in price from \$150 to \$1,000. It should last for up to 20 years, Lisle says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Skip Lisle, Department of Natural Resources, 6 River Road, Old Town, Maine 04468.

## Twin Row Corn May Out-Yield Narrow Rows

"We're interested in finding a cheaper alternative than the wholesale conversion to narrow rows. Twin row corn just might be the answer," says Tony Vyn, crop scientist at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, who, along with research assistant Greg Stewart, has had good luck with corn planted in paired rows.

Last year twin row 30-in. corn planted in pairs 7 in. apart yielded 8 bu. per acre more than 20-in. rows.

The 90-day variety was planted May 5 with a modified Deere 71 flexi-planter. A double toolbar and five planting units were added so 10 sets of twin rows were planted

on 2 1/2-ft. centers in one pass. Populations were set at 28,000 and 36,000 ppa.

Yields were significantly more with the higher population - 157 bu. per acre, compared with 148 for 20-in. rows and 141 for single 30-in. rows.

Vyn and Stewart believe the advantage comes from having more room - at least a full 7 in. - between plants than corn planted in 20 in. rows.

"Both the 30-in. twin rows and 36-in. twin rows we experimented with combined nicely with 30 and 36-in. heads," Vyn notes. "The only problem we'd expect is if there'd been significant lodging."



System uses a 12-ft. header mounted on front of tractor to cut residue ahead of plow.

## "Mow Plow" Drops Residue On Plowed Ground

"It lets us cut residue and distribute it evenly into plow furrows for increased erosion control and also does a better job of burying weed seeds," says Dale Wilkins, a USDA ag engineer about one-pass "mow-plow" system he's developing.

Used for three years at USDA's Agricultural Research Service Pacific West Region, Pendleton, Ore., the equipment consists of a modified combine header mounted on front of a tractor that pulls a standard moldboard plow behind. The header cuts and conveys residue out onto the freshly plowed ground making it easier for the trailing plow to cleanly turn the sod.

The 12-ft. header came off a Gleaner combine. It mounts on a Deere 4455 with FWA and a Deere front-mount 3-pt. The header's hydraulically driven by the tractor and its auger was modified to convey material out the right side of the header instead of conveying it to the middle. A special straw spreader mounts on the side of the header to help distribute residue on top of the plow



An 8-bottom moldboard plow attached to rear of tractor turns soil after residue is removed.

furrow. Stubble is cut as close to the ground as possible, given that the header can only cut as low as the top of the plow furrow.

A 6-bottom, 8-ft. wide International moldboard plow is pulled behind the tractor. With the residue gone, it's easier for the plow to do a clean job turning and burying weed seeds on top of the ground.

The moldboard operates 6 to 8 in. deep, with the rig operated at 3 to 4 mph.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Wilkins, USDA-ARS, Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center, P.O. Box 370, Pendleton, Ore. 97801 (ph 541 278-3292; fax 3795).

As a ballpark guesstimate, given twin rows' yield advantage over narrow rows, Vyn says there's a possible capital cost savings of \$10,000 to \$15,000 (Canadian) over conversion to an entire 6-row system, including

planter, header and narrow tractor tires.

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