

Narrow Row Bean Planter Built From Two IH 500 Cyclos

Alan Nieman, Clarksville, Iowa, built his own 16-row, 16-in. soybean planter out of two used IH 500 Cyclo air planters.

He bought an 8-row, 36-in. vertical fold, 3-pt. planter for \$1,200 and a 3-pt., 8-row, 30-in. rigid frame model for \$500 which he used for parts. The vertical fold planter was equipped with a 7 by 7-in. toolbar. He mounted 10 row units on a length of 4 by 4 sq. tubing behind and under the seed hoppers. The rest of the row units were mounted on wing frames. He moved the center air module over to the side and added a second air unit and hopper.

The hubs on the planter's press wheels were wearing out and required constant greasing every two hours or so. To solve the problem he removed the original hubs and replaced them with the hubs and sealed bearings from used disc openers off the 500 planter. The hub housing on the disc openers had the same bolt pattern as the hub housing on the press wheels. He bought some round stock and some bolts and put two bear-

ings together, using 3/16 in. spacers between the each pair of bearings. "It virtually eliminates the need to grease the press wheel hubs. Also, with the new hubs and bearings the press wheels run true so they aren't wobbling all the time," says Nieman.

The planter was already equipped with Acra-Plant shoes. He added Keeton seed firmers to the shoes to keep the seed from bouncing out of the ground.

Each planter was already equipped with an 8-row harness for its own seed monitor. Nieman had a "Y" cable made up to hook the two harnesses together so he can monitor all 16 rows at one time.

"I had been planting beans in 30-in. rows. My partner had a 30-in. planter and also drilled beans. He didn't like drilling because he never knew exactly what seed population he was planting. With our air planter we know that we're always planting exactly the same population no matter what the seed size.

"I wanted to build a planter with 15-in. row units but at 15-in. spacings the row unit



Nieman built his 16-row, 16-in. soybean planter (above) out of two used IH 500 Cyclo air planters. He added Keeton seed firmers to Acra-Plant shoes (right) to keep seed from bouncing out of the ground.

mounting brackets interfered with the hinge where the toolbar folds on each side so I just went 1 inch wider."

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Tandem axle seed loading unit is complete with a hydraulically-operated auger and 15-ft. telescoping downspout.

Old Fertilizer Buggy Converted Into Low-Cost Planter Loading System

Old fertilizer buggies can be converted into low-cost planter loading units, says Steve Pitcher, Jewett, Ill., who converted a tandem axle fertilizer buggy into a hydraulically-powered seed loading unit that's complete with a hydraulically-operated auger and 15-ft. telescoping downspout.

"I paid \$300 for the fertilizer buggy and spent a total of less than \$2,000 to make the conversion, not counting my labor," says Pitcher.

He removed the drive chain from the buggy and replaced it with a rubber belt. He mounted a 6-in. dia., 15-ft. long auger on the back part of the buggy's frame. One motor drives the belt and the other one operates the auger. The motors are hydraulically powered by the tractor pulling the planter via snap couplings on back of the planter. The downspout is wired with an on-off master switch for each motor.

He also divided the buggy into three compartments by welding in a pair of steel plates. Feed truck-style gates in each plate are manually opened and closed by using a pair of handles that mount outside the buggy.

"It really takes the labor out of filling seed boxes and it speeds up the process," says Pitcher. "The buggy will hold about 200 50-lb. bags of seed. I use a pair of 12-volt solenoid control valves on the buggy frame to adjust the speed of both the auger and the belt. There's a microswitch in the auger hop-



Downspout is wired with on-off switches that operate a pair of motors.



Motors are hydraulically powered via snap couplings on back of planter.

per so if the hopper gets too full the seed flow will automatically shut off.

"The auger was originally designed to be truck-mounted and folds in the middle for road transport. "The buggy's three compartments allow me to use different soybean varieties and also keep all the seed from working toward the back at the same time, which could make the buggy unstable."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Pitcher, 18363 N. 800th St., Jewett, Ill. 62436 (ph 217 683-2217).

Seed Tube Protector For Deere & Kinze Planters

The latest new add-on for row-crop planters is a Seed Tube Protector from R K Products, an Illinois company well-known for its repair and improvement kits for planters and no-till drills.

Designed for Deere and Kinze planters, it consists of a 5/16-in. thick steel holder bracket that's held rigidly to the shank just ahead of the seed tube with 5/16-in. dia. solid steel rivets. The rivets eliminate problems with roll pins breaking or working their way out.

The bracket is fitted with a "floating wear block". It floats in the holder bracket, maintaining a constant space between the opener discs under variable load conditions from the ground. It's made from a resin-based fiberglass and graphite-filled material. The graphite provides a low co-efficient of friction resulting in a wear life at least twice that of the original equipment. The block can be in-



Steel holder bracket is held with wear blocks rigidly to shank just ahead of seed tube.

verted for additional life. It's easily replaced by removing one opener disc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R K Products, Inc., 3802 Jean Street, East Moline, Ill. 61244 (ph 800 580-6818 or 309 792-1927; fax 1924; Web site: www.rkproducts.com).

Planter Caddy Built From Semi Tractor Axle

To get weight off the back of his tractor, Julian Huffman of Toledo, Ill., mounted an IH 800 3-pt. planter on a "caddy" made out of a semi trailer axle.

He got the idea after converting the planter to narrow row, no-till soybeans. The 12-row, 30-in. planter became a heavier 15-row, 15-in. model which he mounted on the caddy.

"It works as well as commercial caddies that cost thousands of dollars," says Huffman. "I paid \$100 for the semi axle. My total cost was less than \$500."

Machinist Gary Hatten of Neoga, Ill., did the work. He narrowed up the axle so each set of dual wheels straddles a row. He welded a steel frame on top of the axle and bolted the lower lift arms off an Allis-Chalmers D21 tractor onto it. A hydraulic cylinder on the lift arms is used to raise or lower the planter. He used sq. steel tubing to make a 10-ft. long hitch, which he welded to the front of the axle. He used sheet metal to make fenders for the wheels.

"I use either my Ford 8700 2-WD tractor or my Deere 4040 2-WD tractor to pull it. They're both equipped with dual wheels to minimize compaction," says Huffman. "I



Julian Huffman mounts his IH 800 3-pt. planter on the "caddy" made out of a semi trailer axle, which is equipped with a 10-ft. long hitch.

built it five years ago and have used it to plant 300 to 1,000 acres of soybeans each year. I use an adjustable threaded center link to level the caddy. I tried using a Tye drill to plant soybeans, but I found that my planter has better metering and also better seed depth control.

"Even with the long hitch I can turn right around at the end of the field and line right up with the rows for the next pass."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Hatten, Rt. 1, Box 370-4, Neoga, Ill. 62447 (ph 217 849-3352).