

## Easy-To-Pull "Steerable" Fertilizer Caddy

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

Roger Montag of West Bend, Iowa, recently called FARM SHOW to tell us about his new high-capacity fertilizer caddy that "steers" itself to precisely follow in the tracks of any implement. The two-wheeled unit is designed primarily to deep band granular fertilizer, but can also be used in any row crop application, liquid or dry.

"It has a capacity of eight tons and rides on big 6-ft. high wheels, which makes it easy to pull," says Montag.

The cart has two tongues that connect it to the toolbar. Angle changes between the tongues and cart cause the wheels to pivot, holding the cart in position behind the tillage bar.

The cart features a simple air delivery system that Montag invented several years ago for deep placement of fertilizer. It has an over-size fan and two augers that deliver the fertilizer through hoses to the toolbar. It can be used with big 16 and 24-row toolbars. And it can be equipped with lift assist cylinders which help carry the back end of the toolbar.

"So far we've built four prototypes which we tested last fall on farms in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. They worked great," says Montag. "The reason we built this unit is that a lot of strip-till farmers are putting down all their nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium during the fall at rates up to 550 lbs. per acre. At that rate, with a 16-row toolbar

you need a high capacity tank so you don't have to refill so often. Toolbars aren't designed to carry eight tons."

Norm Johnson of Spirit Lake, Iowa, tested one of the 8-ton carts last fall on about 500 acres. He used his Deere 8510 front wheel assist tractor to pull the unit behind a 16-row, 3-pt. mounted toolbar. He deep banded fertilizer on strip-tilled soybean ground at a rate 370 lbs. of urea per acre.

He built his own 16-row toolbar. He started with the toolbar off a 12-row Hiniker row crop cultivator and lengthened it to 40 ft. Then he mounted Remlinger row units on it. He also reinforced the toolbar for extra strength.

"We were well pleased," says Johnson, who ran the machine over about 500 acres. "We found the cart trails much more closely behind the toolbar than a gooseneck-type, which reduces the hose length and blowing distance. The short distance increases the application rate capacity and also the accuracy of the air system. Another advantage is that the steering system keeps the cart from pulling to the left or right. That allows it to follow directly behind the implement instead of lagging downhill or in the direction you're turning.

"I use a Raven controller with the toolbar. The two augers at the bottom of the cart that feed product into the hoses are tied in with



High capacity fertilizer caddy "steers" itself to precisely follow in the tracks of any implement. Two-wheeled unit is designed primarily to deep band granular fertilizer, but can also be used in any row crop application, liquid or dry.

the controller so as I speed up or slow down, the augers speed up or slow down, too, which keeps the application rate uniform."

Montag says there are many other uses for the versatile caddy. "You can hook the cart behind an anhydrous bar or behind a planter or cultivator. He plans to introduce a new model next fall which will have four or five compartments and be able to blend fertilizer on-the-go. It will also be compatible with Global Positioning Satellite systems and mapping technology.

Montag says he expects the 8-ton cart to

sell for \$28,000 to \$35,000 depending on options. A smaller 6-ton cart is also available and is expected to sell for \$24,000 to \$30,000.

"Both the 8 and 6-ton models are available in the original 2-in. delivery systems and also in a higher output 2 1/2-in. design for higher speeds and higher application rates," notes Montag.

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## Wheel Lock Stops Vehicle Theft

You can protect almost any vehicle from theft with this new wheel lock that attaches directly onto the wheel.

"It immobilizes the wheel and makes it impossible to move the vehicle," says Alpha Industries Inc., Rancho Dominguez, Calif.

The Alpha Lock wheel immobilizer has been used by law enforcement agencies for years but is just now being introduced to the public. The lock is pick and drill resistant. Made from hardened steel, it resists cutting or sawing. It weighs about 8 lbs. and takes only about five seconds to install.

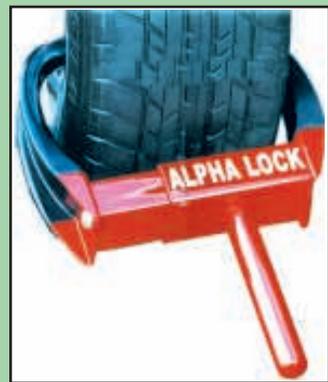
The unit consists of two halves that fit together. You place one half around the back

side of the wheel and place the other half around the front side. Then you slide the two halves together and lock them together.

"It grabs around the tire but actually locks onto the wheel rim, so letting the air out of the tire will do no good. A soft protective coating on the arms prevents scratching the wheels and rims," says a company spokesman.

Comes in two sizes - standard and truck model, similar to the size police officers use. The standard model fits up to 11 1/2-in. wide tires and sells for \$129.95 plus \$12.95 S&H; the truck model fits up to 12 1/2-in. wide tires and sells for \$139.95 plus \$14.95 plus S&H.

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Wheel lock consists of two halves that fit together around tire. A long spike keeps vehicle from being driven.

## Tow-Behind Planter-Harvester For High-Value Crops

There's money to be made raising garlic but it's a pain in the back getting it planted and harvested, says Joseph Schuster. Onions, garlic and shallots all provide a good return if you can keep labor costs under control. That's why Schuster built a machine to speed the work along without breaking the bank or his back.

"Nothing out there can touch garlic as a low input, high rate of return crop," says Schuster. "I wanted a 3-way machine that could be used for planting and harvesting root crops and for transplanting 6 to 14-in. potted plants such as tomatoes and peppers."

When the machine is set up for planting root crops, two people sit side-by-side. Four gauge-wheels and adjustable furrow openers control the depth of the furrows. The openers prepare two furrows, and the workers place the bulbs or tubers. Closure plates cover both furrows and level the top of the bed.

For harvest, the openers and closure plates are removed and a plant-lifting plate, undercutter, and conveyor system are attached. As the plants are lifted from the ground, the workers riding in the seats move them on to the conveyor, which drops them into a bin on the rear platform.

For transplanting 6 to 12-in. tall plants, a

front and aft seat configuration is used. The first worker pulls the plant from the holding box and sets it in the furrow. The second person stands it up and firms the dirt around it. A third person can sit at the rear and lay drip irrigation tape between the two furrows.

Schuster prefers transplanting larger tomatoes and peppers to ensure better root growth and earlier production. He notes that other commercial transplanters, including water wheels, are set up for the smaller, bare root plants.

Schuster's 3-way machine sells for about \$8,500, depending on options. Hydraulics run off a single remote with the use of a splitter valve control on the machine. If two remotes are available, all hydraulics can be operated from the tractor seat. The machine requires 40 hp or less and is designed for simple maintenance.

"All the bearings are sealed except for the gauge-wheels, which do have to be greased," says Schuster. "You also have to oil the chains on the conveyor system once a year. That's about it."

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Three-way machine can be used for planting and harvesting root crops, and for transplanting 6 to 14-in. potted plants such as tomatoes and peppers.

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