

## Chopped Drills Perfect For Wildlife Plots

Why buy an expensive wildlife plot drill when you can make two of them out of an old grain drill that you can pick up for next to nothing? Ralph Zirbel cut his old 8-ft. Case drill into two 4-ft. plot drills, one for use with an ATV and one with a 3-pt. hitch for mounting on tractors.

"I use them to plant soybeans, sorghum, sudangrass, and even turnips. Wheel to wheel, they measure about 6 feet," says Zirbel. "The 3-pt. model is handy for backing into tight areas."

Cutting the drill in half was the easy part. The next step was to weld sections of an old 20-in. truck frame to the two open ends of the drill frames. This closed the frames off and provided a mounting area for wheels off an old house trailer. Zirbel welded the axle stubs to the bottom edges of the new frame ends.

Of course, the ground-driven drive shaft had also been cut in two. Zirbel fashioned new hubs for the cut ends from white oak

blocks that he fills with grease. The blocks are mounted to the inside of the welded steel plates. Pine plank was used to close up the open ends of the hoppers, and 5/8-in. hoses were added to the grass seeder outlets to spread the fine seed on top of the ground.

"When it went through the drill, it got buried too deep," says Zirbel about the modification.

He fabricated a hitch out of angle iron and box tube steel to attach to the one drill. Three-pt. hitch mounts were welded to the front frame of the second drill. A removable wheel was also mounted to the front of this drill to make it easier to move it around when not in use.

"I also made a bracket for the 3-pt. unit so it can also be used as a pull behind on a 4-wheeler," says Zirbel. "It only takes about three minutes to convert it."

Sandblasted and painted in crisp new Case colors, the drills are loaned out to folks



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wanting to establish wildlife plots. Zirbel makes them available through the local sportsman club and Pheasants Forever chapter and plans to make more.

"I have another old drill and plan on doing the same with it," he says. "We are trying to

seed every nook and cranny around here to feed pheasants."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Zirbel, N1562 Pray Ave., Neillsville, Wis. 54456 (ph 715 743 2353).

## State-Of-The-Art Strip Till Unit

"Our new state-of-the-art strip till unit is the most versatile on the market. It saves trips and lets you place fertilizer exactly where it does the most good to boost yields," says Doug Gengenbach, Lexington, Neb.

The system consists of a 3-pt. mounted toolbar equipped with adjustable, clamp-on row units. The unit can be used during the fall to apply fertilizer after harvest, or during the spring to till the soil just ahead of the planter. It can be set up for either dry or liquid fertilizer, or anhydrous ammonia. The various components mount on flat steel bars that can be easily raised or lowered by using a socket wrench on a screw jack. The sweep can be replaced with an ammonia or liquid fertilizer knife or by a mole knife.

"The adjustability lets you put fertilizer right under the seed, where it does the most good," says Gengenbach.

Each row unit has a stalk chopper attached

to a single coulter on front, followed by a pair of waffled coulters, a 7-in. wide sweep, V-shaped row cleaner, a blade for removing small weeds, and a rolling basket. The stalk chopper cleans away all the stalks and root crowns. The three coulters have a total working width of 12 in.

The blade is unique and does a good job of cleaning the row of weeds. "We've tested the unit in a field with 1-ft. high weeds, and the blade totally cleaned all the weeds off," notes Gengenbach.

The strip till unit is available in row widths from less than 30 in. to 40 in. Prices start at about \$17,000 for an 8-row, 30-in. machine. Maximum toolbar widths go up to 60 ft.

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System consists of a 3-pt. mounted toolbar equipped with adjustable, clamp-on row units. Note chopping blade on up-front coulter.

## Do-It-Yourself Vacuum Keeps Combine Clean

Instead of blowing chaff and grain dust off his combine, Saskatchewan farmer Phil Simrose set up a simple vacuum that gets the job done well without blowing dust up in his face.

He uses a gas-powered leaf blower/vacuum with a 15-ft. section of hose clamped to it. He carries the light flexible hose onto the combine and dust and debris is deposited a distance away, on the ground.

"It works great to suck up dust and I also use it to clean out the solid chaff that builds up around the rotor, under the front plate," he says.

He uses the blower's original rigid plastic tube for his vacuum intake but thinks a more flexible nozzle might work better. One problem he has is that static electricity builds up because of chaff traveling through the pipe.

"One possibility I'm considering, is to hook up a wire that would connect to the vacuum, and hang down to touch the combine, discharging the static," he says.

Simrose says he likes his system better than using a shop vac because the big hose won't plug up and he doesn't have to keep emptying a shop vac's 5-gal. receptacle.

Although his exhaust pipe is ribbed because that's what he had on hand, Simrose says any flexible, lightweight hose would do.

"At first, I tried putting on a 2 1/2-in. dia. hose, but that was too small. The 5-in. dia. hose is working well," he says.



To keep chaff and grain dust off his combine, Phil Simrose uses a gas-powered leaf blower/vacuum with a 15-ft. section of hose clamped to it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Phil Simrose, Box 102, Mortlac, Sask., Canada S0H 3E0 (ph 306 355-2709).

Devito plants a field of corn specifically for burning and harvests it with a corn picker.



## "I Burn Ear Corn In My Furnace"

Dave Devito, Mora, Minn., contacted us recently to say he burns ear corn in his Aqua Therm outside wood-burning furnace - just like the Michigan reader we featured in our last issue.

"I've been burning ear corn in my wood boiler for three years with no modification at all. If I run out of corn, I just switch back to wood," he says.

He plants a field of corn specifically for burning and harvests it with a corn picker. A gravity wagon full of ear corn is parked next to the shed that houses his furnace. He loads corn out into a wheelbarrow and shovels it into the stove. In normal winter weather he burns about two wheelbarrow loads of corn a day to heat his 2,400 sq. ft. home, stoking the furnace every 12 hours. When temps get to 0 degrees or colder, he uses three loads. For every wheelbarrow full of cob corn that he burns, he takes out about a scoop shovel full of ash and clinkers.

"I actually think ear corn burns better than wood because it packs in better with no open



He stokes furnace twice a day with corn, shoveling ears from a wheelbarrow.

spaces. You can really pack it in," notes Devito.

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