

Want To Try Plowing With Horses?

Plowing with a horse is a whole lot easier soon with this new, improved version of the old foot-lift sulky plow. Pioneer Equipment is bringing back the 1950's era, single bottom plow, but with some important changes.

"We've been making our standard sulky plow for 30 years, but customers have been asking for a foot-lift version," says Dan Wengerd, Pioneer Equipment Co. "This one is more user friendly than the original. It has a tongue that turns the front and rear wheel, giving you more control."

Because the front and rear wheel are connected by a rod, when the horse is turned, the front wheel moves one way and the rear wheel moves the other. This results in a tighter turn radius. The tongue also ensures that when the plow is out of the ground, it will not roll forward into the horse on a downhill slope.

The foot lift is what really sets this plow apart. The plow beam floats within the frame on two eccentric yokes. The operator easily lifts and lowers the plow beam with offset foot pedals. The lifting pedal mechanism holds the raised plow in place until released

by tipping the foot forward.

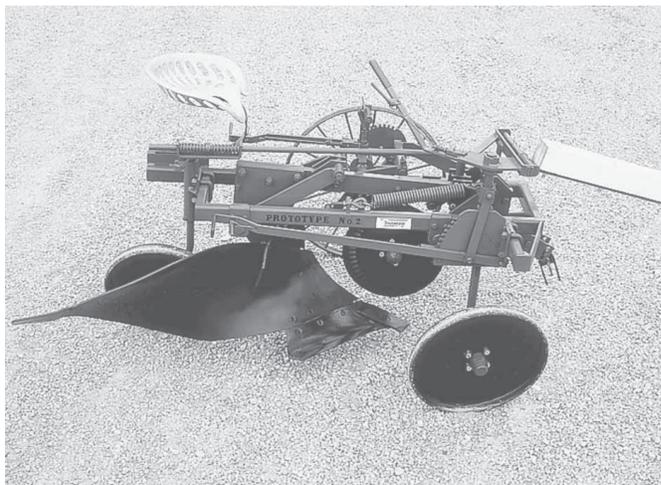
"The foot control leaves both arms free for handling the reins while turning on headlands or entering and leaving the field," says Wengerd. "Another simple improvement was making the seat adjustable for leg length."

As with their current sulky plow, the new plow offers standard Oliver 12, 14, and 16-in. bottoms, and a Deere 14-in. bottom. Also available in 12, 14, and 16-in. sizes are Kverneland plowshares.

"Kverneland shares are heat-treated to last longer than conventional plow bottoms," explains Wengerd. "They also have a slower twist to the moldboard, which flips the sod over instead of breaking it up and throwing the dirt. When you are plowing in sod or grass, you get complete cover and the benefit of the green manure. Plus it pulls about 10 to 15 percent easier than conventional bottoms."

Pioneer built its first prototype in 2005 and a second in 2006. They are building 6 more for further testing in 2007 in different crop and soil conditions.

"We will begin making plows based on



An Ohio company is bringing back a new, improved version of the old foot-lift sulky single bottom plow, which was designed to be pulled by horses.

these prototypes in 2008," says Wengerd. "We expect to be pricing them around \$1,400."

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neer Equipment Inc., 16875 Jericho Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 330 287-0386; fax 330 875-0296).

Plastic Nose-Tab Helps Wean Calves

David Harrington, Guymon, Okla., is one of a growing number of cattlemen adopting what's called a "weaning flap" for beef calves.

The idea is to wean calves in two steps - first denying them milk for a few days by use of the nose flap, and then removing the device and separating the calves from their mother. Both cows and calves are said to be less disturbed by this weaning process compared to calves weaned by conventional methods.

The plastic nose-tab weans calves by preventing nursing, but doesn't put them through the stress of taking them away from their mothers. The anti-sucking device looks somewhat like a big bread tab. It's clipped to the partition between the animal's nostrils to prevent access to the teat at weaning time.

The procedure is painless (the device doesn't pierce the septum) and the calf can still graze and drink water normally.

The two-stage weaning process was invented by Derek Haley as one of his studies to earn his Ph. D. He's with the Alberta Ag, Food, and Rural Development, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

After separation, the cow and her calf normally spend a lot of time and energy pacing and calling out for one another when they could be eating and ruminating. As a result of weaning stress, some calves get sick and need to be treated for health problems.

Harrington, who runs 70 cows, has used the nose flaps for three sets of calves. He says that in 10 days of running together after inserting the flaps the calves "don't know they're being weaned". After separating them

from the cows, the calves will walk the fence for a day and it's over. This reduction of stress is better for both mother and calf.

To insert the nose flaps, Harrington has to use a livestock chute. He leaves the flaps in the noses for one to two weeks. Removing the flaps isn't so much of a deal. He will just crowd the calves and pull them out.

The word on flaps is getting around. Haley says at least 800 producers have already used them on some 112,000 calves.

Nose Flaps, called QuietWean, are available from: JDA Livestock Innovations Ltd., P.O. Box 25037, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 8B7 (ph 306 262-6618; quietwean@hotmail.com; www.quietwean.com).



Plastic nose flap is designed to wean beef calves by preventing nursing, but doesn't put them through the stress of taking them away from their mothers.

Forklift Mast Mounts On Old Farmall "M"

Noel Hicks, Palmyra, Ill. "modernized" his Farmall "M" by equipping it with live hydraulics and then mounting a forklift mast on back.

To keep the front end from lifting off the ground, he fills up the scoop on the front of the M.

"The forks can lift 3,000 lbs. up to 8 ft. high with no problem," says Hicks, who paid \$100 for the forklift mast. He replaced the cylinder seals and hoses. The mast is mounted solid to the tractor drawbar and to the tractor itself. He cut off the subframe that had secured the mast to the Ford tractor and then made a new bracket that attaches the top part of the mast to the tractor's rear axle. The mast has four hydraulic cylinders. Two are used to tip the mast forward and backward, one is used to shift the forks from side to side, and a big 5-in. dia. cylinder is used to raise and lower the forks via a pair of roller chains.

"I've done a lot of different jobs with it," says Hicks. "I've used to put in clay tile that came on pallets and weighed 3,000 lbs. I also use it to handle pallets of corn and soybean seed. When I lift heavy loads, I have to put concrete blocks or wheel weights in the loader bucket to keep the front end from raising off the ground."

To provide live hydraulics, Hicks installed an M&W live hydraulic pump on the tractor



Noel Hicks "modernized" his Farmall M by equipping it with live hydraulics and a forklift mast on back. "It can lift 3,000 lbs. up to 8 ft. high with no problem," he says.

that mounts between the distributor and timing gear on one side of the tractor. He also installed a power steering system on the tractor.

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Impeller Keeps Seed Moving In 12-Volt Seeder

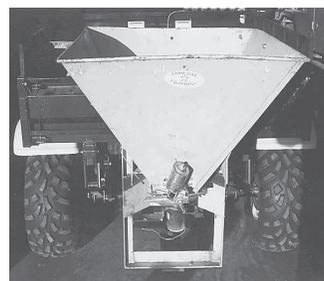
"I have a 12-volt seeder mounted on back of my Cub Cadet utility vehicle. I was having a problem with light seed, such as fescue and orchard grass, sticking together and not sifting down to the spreader. I came up with an inexpensive way to solve the problem," says Kenneth Hall, Purdy, Mo.

"I bought a windshield wiper motor and mounted it on back of the seeder. Then I fabricated a small impeller to stir light seed so it would sift down. The impeller rotates at 400 rpm's and is hooked into the utility vehicle's 12-volt system. I bought the wiper motor from a surplus catalog for \$20, which was my only expense."

To make the impeller he heated up an 8-in. length of flat metal and twisted it, then welded it onto a shaft on the wiper motor. Then he drilled a hole through the hopper and bolted the wiper motor onto the hopper just above the propeller. The shaft is connected to a right angle gear reduction box which slows the impeller down to 400 rpm's. There's about 2 in. of clearance between the impeller and the bottom of the hopper.

He also mounted a two-way switch next to the driver's seat. The same switch is used to operate both the wiper motor and the motor that drives the propeller, so both units come on at the same time.

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Kenneth Hall mounted a windshield wiper motor on back of the seeder on his Cub Cadet utility vehicle. Homemade impeller stirs light seed so it will sift down.



Impeller rotates at 400 rpm's and is hooked into utility vehicle's 12-volt system. To make the impeller he heated up an 8-in. length of flat metal and twisted it, then welded it onto a shaft on the wiper motor.