

Converted Sprayer Seeds Cover Crops

"We've seen real good benefits with cover crops in corn and soybeans over the past five years," says Celina, Ohio farmer Matt VanTilburg, "but getting that seed planted in a timely and cost effective way has been a challenge. It looks like we've got that problem solved with this seeding system that we adapted onto a used Walker sprayer."

VanTilburg Farms now has a machine that can plant 400 to 500 acres of cover crop seed a day in standing corn and soybeans. "It operates just like any other 90-ft. wide self-propelled sprayer equipped with GPS and auto steer," says Matt. "We can move the boom height up and down nearly 6 ft., plant in fully grown corn and soybeans and do very little damage to the mature crops." The wheels have a variable tread width of 106 to 154 in.

VanTilburg and his farm engineer, Larry Pingry, found a refurbished self-propelled Walker sprayer with the liquid tank removed. A local welding shop built them a 150-bushel seed tank. Pingry installed a Salford distribution system that pulls seed out of the tank and blows it through rubber hoses across the 90-ft. boom to 3-ft. pvc drop tubes placed

on 30-in. centers. They carry the seed down close to the ground, where a metal nozzle deflects seed evenly between the rows of standing crops. The 200 hp machine planted 6,000 acres in 2011 and almost 12,000 acres in 2012.

"As long as the seed doesn't have any foreign matter, the lines and nozzles don't plug," Matt says. Depending on the seed being planted they apply 10 to 60 lbs. per acre and travel 12 to 13 mph. The machine has a Dickey-John metering system and the tank has a scale so the operator knows exactly how many pounds of seed is being planted per acre.

"It works great for inter-seeding rye, clover and radishes in standing crops," says Matt. To capture late season moisture and get the cover crop seeds growing strong they start seeding in corn around August first and soybeans when leaves start to yellow. "We also used it to seed alfalfa and to seed wheat before vertical tillage and the stand was real nice," says Matt. In 2013 they plan to experiment with intercropping soybeans into standing wheat and side dressing urea with the machine, which they call the Kover



Matt VanTilburg converted this Walker self-propelled sprayer to seed cover crops in corn and beans. Seed is blown down close to the ground through 3-ft. pvc drop tubes.

Kropper. The machine's seed tank is made from stainless steel to prevent corrosion from urea. They're also building a second machine and have had conversations with sprayer companies about adapting their concept onto liquid booms without removing the wet systems.

"I think our machine is a good long-term investment," Matt says. "We use it on our farm and also do custom work in a 60-mile

radius. We're planting valuable cover crops that do a great job of keeping the soil alive, making nutrients more available for next year's crop and protecting the soil from erosion."

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Poly auxiliary fuel tank can be fitted with a hose and nozzle to fill other vehicles.

Poly Fuel Tank Mounts In Pickup Bed

A new in-bed auxiliary fuel tank can also be used to refuel other vehicles in the field.

"As far as we can tell, it's the first (military grade) cross-linked polyethylene tank on the market," says Ken Anderson, manager for Titan Fuel Tanks in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

That means no cracked welds on a tank stressed from traveling over rough terrain on oilfields, farms and ranches. The 1/4-in. thick poly eliminates condensation and doesn't corrode like steel tanks. At 51 lbs., it's light enough for one person to install. All hardware is aluminum or zinc-plated.

The design of the 60-gal. tank accommodates a variety of needs. It has tie downs to secure a payload hauled behind it, and fits under a Tonneau cover. Titan offers options such as a pump to fill fuel tanks on other equipment or a toolbox that fits over

the top of the fuel tank.

"Our biggest customers are farmers and construction folks," Anderson says. "And we sell a lot of our products to oilfield workers and people who pull horse trailers."

Titan started by selling oversize replacement fuel tanks that fit under pickups in 2004 and just added the in-bed tank last year.

The response has been good, Anderson says.

The tanks are covered by a 5-year warranty and start at about \$1,500. They can be purchased through Titan dealers listed on the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Titan Fuel Tanks, 5020 North Haroldsen Dr., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 (ph 800 728-4982; titanfueltanks.com).



Optional toolbox can be fitted to top of fuel tank.

Easy Way To Slice Round Bales

Amos King likes his electric bale saw so much he started selling them. The Italian-made, handheld saw first featured in FARM SHOW way back in 1981 (Vol. 5, No. 3) slices open big round bales or the face of a silage pile with practically no effort.

"We've had one on our farm for about 11 years and wouldn't be without it," says King. "You just set the blade on the bale and turn it on. The cutting surfaces practically pull it into the bale. You don't need to push hard at all unless the hay is wet."

The bale saw has twin fan-shaped faces with two cutting edges on the bottom. The twin faces narrow as they approach the electric motor, controls and handholds.

"The cutting edges reciprocate against each other about half an inch," explains King. "If you're careful not to push it into wood or concrete surfaces, you can go 6 months without sharpening."

The original Tagliafieno, as it was called in Italy, weighed 39 lbs. Since being redesigned, it now weighs 34 lbs. It's 35 in. long. The cutting blades are 19 in. wide and 21 in. long, tapering to a 4 1/2-in. waist where they meet the power and control half of the machine.



Electric-operated bale saw slices open big round bales with practically no effort.

The bale saw operates on 110V current. Sells for \$1,742.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oregon Ag. LLC, 1150 E. Oregon Rd., Lititz, Penn. 17543 (ph 717 656-0067).



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Is Your FARM SHOW Library Complete?

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