

Poly Grain Head Fingers Cause Less Damage

May Wes Manufacturing has poly replacements for metal fingers in grain head augers. Metal fingers can damage threshing systems if they break. Poly fingers are less likely to break, but if they do, they'll disintegrate as they pass through. They're also less expensive than metal fingers, although that's not what drives sales, according to Nancy Lauseng, May Wes Manufacturing.

"The fact that if they break, they won't damage the threshing system is what people like the most," says Lauseng. "They retract as the auger rotates, so they clear the bottom of the auger channel. But if they do encounter a rock or other object, they'll bend past the breaking point of metal fingers."

May Wes is built around the use of ultra-high-molecular-weight (UHMW) polyethylene. Company founders Mavis and Wesley Bruns turned attaching UHMW poly to their field equipment into a business. They added it to areas of high stress where dirt and debris would build up. They realized their equipment would last longer and work better. Over the past 50 years, the company has made UHMW products for practically every aspect of crop production.

The poly fingers, introduced at least 10 years ago according to Lauseng, are available in a kit or by themselves.

"The kit includes a finger and a guide, and the hardware needed to install it," she says. "It's priced at \$20, but the kits are also



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available in volume at a reduced price."

While the kit is needed to replace a metal finger, components such as fingers or the guides and hardware can be ordered separately. Kits are available for most leading combine header makes and models. In addition to single kits, they can be ordered in 12 and 24-packs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May Wes Manufacturing, 120 Eastgate Dr. SE, Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 320-587-2322 or toll-free 800-788-6483; info@maywes.com; www.maywes.com).

Post-Pulla uses a scissors action to grip little more than the top inch of a post. Mounted to any type of front-end-loader, it grips the post tighter as upward force is exerted on it.



Scissor-Action Post Puller

Peter Chester owes the idea for the Post-Pulla, an innovative metal fence post puller, to his farmer brother-in-law. A former farmer, Chester designs equipment for the agricultural and mining industries.

"My brother-in-law is very big on reusing products, and with so many post pullers, if you're in hard soil, they damage the post," says Chester, Chester Brown Industries. "He wanted a post puller that would pull the post out undamaged."

Chester critiques many commercial post pullers as being flimsily built. Others jam onto the post or use rings or chains. He decided to design a puller with jaws shaped to fit the end of a post to grip it and pull without damaging the post in even the hardest soils.

"It's rated for 2 tons of force, but we put it to the test, and it handled up to 5 tons," says Chester.

The Post-Pulla uses a scissors action to grip little more than the top inch of a post. Mounted to any type of front-end-loader, it grips the post tighter as upward force is exerted on it. The straight vertical pull virtually eliminates potential bending or breakage.

While reducing potential damage was important, so was speed. Chester has pulled six posts at 23-ft. intervals in only 2 min.

"That equates to pulling 3/4-mile of posts

in an hour, with or without removing wires or straightening the top tag," says Chester.

Chester can modify jaws to fit different types of posts. He's also modified the Post-Pulla for 1-person operation.

The original design has handholds for a helper to use while guiding the puller head to a post. Pulling down on the handholds initiates the gripping process as the machine operator starts the vertical lift.

"We've introduced a hands-free model with an actuator hardwired to the cab of the lifting vehicle," explains Chester. "The operator guides the Post-Pulla into position and triggers the gripping action and release. A good operator can pull more than half a mile of posts in an hour by himself."

Chester Brown Industries is introducing a model with a wireless remote for use by a helper walking alongside or in the tractor cab. The Post-Pulla is priced at \$795 Australian (\$532 USD) without the actuator. The hands-free version is priced at \$1,895 Australian (\$1,270 USD). With the remote, it will be \$3,780 AUD (\$2,568 USD).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chester Brown Industries, 4 Stockton Rd., Port Kennedy, Western Australia 6172 (ph 08 61563601 or 61 488685309; peterc@chesterbrownindustries.com.au; www.chesterbrownindustries.com.au).



Designed for Deere 8000R tractors, tanks can be installed on some Case IH tractors as well.

Saddle Tanks Improve Tractor Visibility

The 700-gal. saddle tanks from 360 Yield Center provide balanced capacity without loss of visibility on Deere 8000R tractors. Designed for use on tractors equipped with front and rear duals, the liquid fertilizer tanks provide better front and side visibility than other mid-mount and front-mount tanks.

The tanks are low profile compared to other tanks with no increase in transport width. They can be plumbed together or separate for two different products.

The tanks sit over the front duals but keep weight distribution similar to the original tractor set-up. This minimizes front axle loading and compaction compared to front-mounted tanks. The support frame cradles the poly tanks for a solid platform. Installation requires two people with a forklift and takes about 4 hrs.

While accessories such as lights, toolboxes, fuel/water separators, and other aftermarket systems on the tractor may need to be modified or relocated, access to the tractor's side panels for servicing is maintained.

During installation, front suitcase weights are removed and replaced with a front weight mount bracket. Generally, the 2,000-lb. (empty) tank system, plus the fertilizer, cancels out the need for added weights. If a grower prefers to add weight back, optional

weight bracket supports can be added to the tractor.

The 360 Tank Kit includes the tanks, frame, mounting hardware, and front shutoff valves. An optional hose kit is available and provides ports, hoses, and connections needed to fill and plumb the planter.

The 360 tanks can be used with any standard pto or hydraulic pump and any standard control system.

The optional hose kit includes a 3-in. front fill valve for easier headland loading and a 2-in. system to connect the tanks to the 2-in. hose secured to the belly of the tractor and out to the planter.

A 2-in. vent system is included on each tank to prevent collapse as they empty. However, care must be taken when filling. The vents can't relieve pressure from the 3-in. fill line.

While designed primarily for the Deere 8000R tractors, the 360 tanks can be installed on a limited number of Case IH tractors. Dealers can be found on the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, 360 Yield Center, 180 Detroit Ave., Morton, Ill. 61550 (ph toll-free 888-512-4890; support@360yieldcenter.com; www.360yieldcenter.com).

Drill-Powered Garden Tiller

If you have a drill, you can till, thanks to Fusion's drill-powered cultivator. As part of the Wisconsin company Ardisam Inc., which manufactures Earthquake tilling equipment, Fusion was given the challenge of improving a tiller designed for cordless drills.

"One of the major design improvements was the addition of torque-reducing arms that hug the drill so that the user doesn't experience strain on their arms or wrists during operation, even allowing the user to operate the cultivator with just one hand, kind of like operating a vacuum cleaner. We also added a form-fitting tine shield to help properly direct the dirt," says Andy Burish, brand manager for Fusion Drill Powered Tools.

The resulting 7-lb. cultivator tills up to 8-in. wide and 5 1/2-in. deep with an adjustable handle to use in the garden or raised beds. The steel tines don't need to be sharpened, and the shaft and torque arms are made of lightweight aluminum, Burish says.

The cordless drill attaches easily, and the user controls the speed by setting the drill speed and by the amount of pressure on the trigger. The Fusion cultivator can be moved forward and back or side to side to till, weed, mix fertilizer in the soil, or stir compost.

"A user can control the depth up to 5 1/2 in. by just applying the appropriate amount of pressure during use," Burish says. "This



7-lb. cultivator tills up to 8-in. wide and 5 1/2-in. deep with an adjustable handle to use in the garden or raised beds.

flexibility is helpful when working close to plants or in raised beds."

Run times vary depending on the voltage and amp hour rating of the drill as well as soil conditions.

The Fusion is available on Amazon, through many retailers, and the company's website. Currently, it's on sale for \$100 and comes with a 1-year limited warranty.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup Ardisam Inc., 1160 8th Ave., Cumberland, Wis. 54829 (ph 800-345-6007; www.fusiondrillpowered.com).