

## Home-Made Alarm Warns When Farrowing Begins

"Initially, during farrowing time, I was setting my alarm clock and getting up every two hours throughout the night. That gets to be quite a drag after a few nights of it. So I started work on an alarm system that would alert me when a sow was actually farrowing."

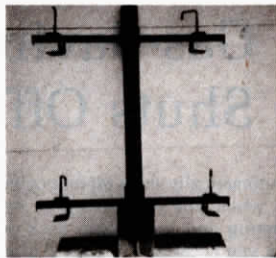
That's how Ed Egli explains his reasoning for building a device which alerts him when a sow is beginning to farrow so he can assist, if necessary, without having to make unnecessary trips.

Egli's invention is a clamp-on device that signals him in the house when a sow has her first pig. The device consists of a 36-in. length of 2-in. square tubing with a piece of flat iron bent into a V-shape welded to the bottom. A small toggle switch is wired into the open area of the V-shaped guard plate. More tubing and strap iron are used to make the clamps and holder arm for clamping the alarm to the end of the farrowing crate.

To use it, Egli decides which sows are near farrowing and puts them in a pen with an alarm. The alarm is set up so that it crowds the sow forward. When she lays down to deliver, her rump is positioned to one side or the other of the tubing. The V-shaped guard plate protects the switch from being disturbed by the sow, thus preventing false alarms.

When a pig is delivered, it tends to squirm around in search of the sow's teats. In so doing, it eventually squirms into or nuzzles up against the toggle switch. This sets off an alarm or buzzer in Egli's house.

He says he first used his alarm four years ago. "Since I installed



the units, I've yet to have a sow have more than two pigs by the time I got there," he notes.

Egli built three units for his 50 sows at a cost of approximately \$20 each, not including labor. He figures it took him about half a day to build each unit after he designed the first one. All of the parts are readily available.

The critical thing is to get the switch so pigs can trip it easily, yet making it stable enough to prevent false alarms," Egli says. He adds that he experimented with a home-made switch for awhile until he decided to go with a commercial toggle switch.

Egli's alarm was originally hooked up to a doorbell-type buzzer. Now he has wired it into a commercial monitoring system. The monitor checks his hog house environment for temperature changes that may harm the hogs. The farrowing alarm is wired into it and into a tape recorder system that alerts his neighbors in case something goes wrong in either monitor when he's not around.

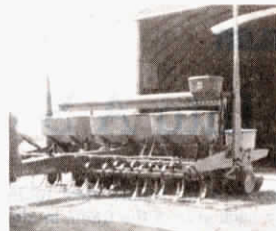
If you'd like more details on how to build one, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edwin Egli, Route 2, New Salem, N.D. 58563 (ph 701 843-7380). He doesn't have any prepared literature to send but will answer specific questions.

## Max-Emerge Cultivator Attachment

Andy Veenstra, Skerkston, Ont., removes tractor tracks ahead of his Max-Emerge Deere planter with a home-built cultivator attachment. The teeth rotate back and up when the planter is raised. No extra cylinders or gauge wheels, or operator attention, are required for turning, crossing waterways, etc.

Veenstra used two rows of Brillion spring tooth harrow teeth, spaced 30 in. apart on each bar, and each row covering a 15 in. working width. "This device erases all tractor tracks and gives a final cultivation before planting," says Veenstra. He notes that a neighbor who built a similar attachment used S-tines instead of spring teeth. However, Veenstra believes the 2 in. points of his unit stir more soil.

He tried using a spray boom



ahead of the cultivator unit but couldn't get adequate chemical incorporation. However, even with the sprayer installed, and using dual wheels on the tractor, the extension built into the planter tongue permits easy turns without interference.

Veenstra figures a farmer could buy materials and build a cultivator attachment like his for \$300-400, depending on his source of materials and by doing his own welding.



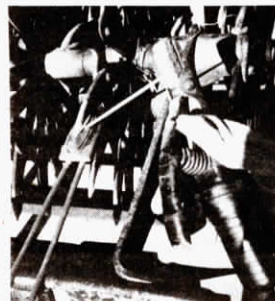
## Rotary Hoe Replacement Spoons

If you own a rotary hoe and find that the teeth wear out before the rest of the hoe, you can save much of the cost of buying a new machine by rebuilding your old one with new "Ho-Bits" replacement spoons.

Made of steel, they're designed to be welded right over the old hoe teeth. A special gauge helps you weld the Ho-Bits into place on the worn tip of each hoe wheel tooth or spike. Gauges are available for most makes of hoes including John Deere, International and Yetter.

"Ho-Bits have shown themselves to be as good or better than the original parts," explains Ed Tetrault of Scott Landlevelers, the manufacturer. "One section of worn rotary hoe can be reconditioned in approximately four hours. A four-section hoe can be reworked in the off-season for approximately one-third the price of a new one."

Using the special gauge to attach Ho-Bits helps prevent



uneven wearing, insures long life, and insures proper placement of the Ho-Bit spoons. You place the Ho-Bit into the groove in the back of the gauge. Then, insert the gauge to the center of the wheel hub and weld the Ho-Bit in place.

Ho-Bits sell for 43 cents each, FOB Tilbury, Ontario, Canada.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edmund Tetrault, Scott Landlevelers, RR4, Merlin, Ontario, Canada NOP 1WO (ph 519 682-1317).



## Turned-Around Tractor Easily Handles Loader

John Moellering of Grinnell, Kansas mounted his Dual tractor loader on a turned-around International M tractor to get more maneuverability in mud and snow.

He turned the rear end ring gear around so the tractor runs backward. "This way, you carry the weight on the big drive tires. It really works great in mud and snow," says Moellering.

The unit is powered by a 238 V8 Chevrolet engine and a 2-speed Power-Glide automatic transmission. They're mounted in a homemade, heavy-duty frame. He also built a cab with a heater to make winter operation more comfortable.

For the loader, new mounting brackets had to be built to allow Moellering to attach the loader to the back of the tractor. He uses a 6-ft. bucket, or a 12-ft. hay basket with grapple fork, on the loader.

Moellering says he especially likes the loader for moving snow, and for loading big round hay bales. He says he's driven as fast as 25 mph with his turned-around loader without any problems.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Moellering, Rt. 1, Grinnell, Kan. 67738 (ph 913 824-3456).