

Increasing Small Farm Capacity: Introduction to Small Scale Farm Machinery/Equipment with Rupert Jannasch

Questions, Answers and Comments

Q1: Question about extended axels in the picture on one slide of the presentation.

A1: The tractor was specially modified for use on wide beds. Please contact Norbert Kungl for a more comprehensive answer, it is his tractor.

Q2: The bean thresher pictured in the presentation: did you build it? Do you use it?

A2: It was made by someone from various parts that were manufactured in the late 1800s. Yes, I use it but the beans been threshed come out it a bit randomly.

Q3: How deep are you trying to go with a broadfork?

A3: Not deeper than 6 inches in greenhouse but you could go deeper depending on your weight, the force you exerted on the fork etc.

Q4: Do you work the bed backwards with a broadfork?

A4: Yes.

Q5: Would broadfork deal with hardpan?

A5: I think it would help but it depends on how firm the hardpan is. But if you broadfork every year or two, it could help.

Comment: Rototillers can destroy soil structure that is difficult to restore. Using a rototiller once per year should be okay but it depends on what soil amendments you're adding, soil type etc. So be cautious and don't overuse it.

Comment: Seeders for tractors are easier with a pole attachment than a three point hitch.

Q6: Is the Planet Junior still being manufactured?

A6: There are three "vintages" of Planet Juniors available: pre-1965 (the parts of which are all steel), Post-1965 to the 1990s (the parts of these machines aren't as robust) and post mid to late 1990s (at this time Planet Junior went broke and now the machines are built in China. Reports indicate that they don't work.)

Comment: I saw an old planet junior that sold at auction for 900 dollars!

Q7: Is the Stan-A like the Earthway?

A7: The Stan-A has a belt with holes and will drop each seed in precise location, unlike the Earthway. This model has two problems: 1) cost: \$2500
2) you need a special belt for each size seed you plant: belts=\$120

Q8: How quickly can you make sprocket changes on the Wang seeder?

A8: About a minute and a half, no wrenches required.

Q9: Can the Wang seeder handle any size seed?

A9: It can handle small seeds up to a corn or a pea. A bigger model is available that will do pumpkin or bean. Also, there is another version that will plant multiple rows at once.

Comments: Veseys also sells a little plastic rolling seeder that is another seeding option.

Q10: Is there problems laying black paper with mulch layer?

A10: Some people in the crowd have had experience using black paper with a mulch layer and it works fine. You can adjust tension on mulch layer so as to not rip the paper.

Comment: You can grow a lot of food without using all this equipment or raised beds or plastic mulch.

Comment: Labour is a challenge so that justifies equipment for me.

Comment: Landscape fabric can be used instead of plastic or paper mulch. It can be reused and lasts for up to 4 years.

Q11: With a broadcast seeder, is there a way to pack down the seeds without a tractor?

A11: You can use a lawn roller.

Useful book: Steel in the field, it's available for free.

Comment: I found a backpack mist blower ideal for spraying! It cost around \$1000. It only takes 5 minutes to clean out so you could spray multiple things in an hour. But takes a strong person to use it (55 to 60 lbs/unit.) You can adjust the nozzle so that it sprays lots or just a little. But it could have problems with wettable powders. Also it's important to use sprayers in calm air (no wind).