Build a Better Mousetrap

Editor's note: The “heavy duty wing wheel” is the first in a series of several winning innovations from the Better Mousetrap competition at the Iowa Maintenance Training Expo in 2003. In each issue of Technology News we'll highlight one of the winners. For information about other winning mousetraps, see CTRE’s website, www.ctre.iastate.edu (Popular Links).

Herb Morley, mechanic with the Iowa DOT in Elkader, found that, during snow removal, the wing blade on his snowplow sometimes scraped gravel from the shoulders into the ditches.

Morley wanted to keep gravel from being plowed away, so he added a heavy-duty wheel to the wing blade. The wheel holds the outer end of the wing up, and since the wheel follows the contours of the shoulder, less gravel is scraped into the ditch.

He used hardware and old plow wheels for his innovation. And he's currently perfecting the invention by making it hydraulic.

For more information about adding a wing wheel to your plow, contact Herb Morley, 563-245-2724, herbert.morley@dot.state.ia.us.

The heavy-duty wing wheel installs easily on the end of the plow blade.

Herb Morley (right) explains his innovation as Al Olson, a competition judge, looks on.

The heavy duty wing wheel prevents the snowplow blade from scraping gravel off the shoulders.

The LTAP Advisory Board.

The people listed below help guide and direct the policies and activities of Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Contact any of the advisory board members to comment, make suggestions, or ask questions about any aspect of LTAP.

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