

V-8 Snowblower Turns Heads

If you spend much time on the internet, you might have already seen this amazing snowblower powered by a 454 cu. in. Chevy engine. Pictures of it have been going around for the past couple of months.

Builder Kai Grundt says the project originally started out as a dare with his neighbor for fun. Due to the high cost of components, he never dreamed there would be a commercial market for this rig, but he was seriously mistaken. He and a business partner, Kerry Phibbs, now build and sell the big blowers and they're overwhelmed with orders.

Besides the testosterone rush the big blower provides, reliability is a key selling point. No more slipping and burning drive belts. No more choking on exhaust fumes. No more cold hands. And no more yearning for more power.

"It'll never let you down," says Grundt. "Instead of drive belts, it has a hydraulic drive motor and two smaller hydraulic motors to control steering."

The 454 cu. in. Chev. block produces 412 hp, 430 ft.-lbs. of torque, and it can throw snow 50 ft. at 3,500 rpm's. There's even power to pull a car out of a ditch.

To keep your fingers warm, engine coolant circulates through the handle bars. A thermostatically-controlled electric fan blows the warm air from the engine onto the operator,

keeping him toasty warm.

Maneuverability isn't sacrificed on this 912-lb., perfectly balanced monster, thanks to the hydraulic-drive 4-WD skid steer drive wheels on independent walking beams. It has a zero turning radius, and you can walk the auger over curbs or steps with very little effort.

This rig has full instrumentation with back lit, marine-style gauges that are weather and water resistant. It also includes a flashing blue safety light.

Twin exhausts with standard baffling produce a minimum of 92 decibels, so hearing protection is strongly recommended.

Since each V-8 blower is custom-built, the options are unlimited. For example, the auger choices range from single to multi-stage designs. Any make of motor is a possibility, and a V-10 or diesel engine with remote start are equally available.

The standard V-8 Snowblower is priced at close to \$30,000 (Can.) but because almost any customization is possible, the sky is the limit on price. Phibbs says they are currently swamped with orders, including one with a price tag of \$42,000.

Orders so far have been exclusively south of the border, he says. Being proud Canadians, the buddies buy almost 100 percent of their components from Canada.

"It's a tool that makes wintertime fun,"



Big snowblower is powered by a Chevy 454 cu. in., V-8 gas engine producing 412 hp.

Grundt says. "It's certainly very unique, and it gives the total impression that you're wearing the big daddy pants in the neighborhood. I had no idea there were so many people who could afford something like this."

It makes sense that a snowblower of this magnitude would be invented in Canada,

since it was a Canadian who, in 1925, invented the world's first snowblower.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kai Grundt, 32 Sellens Ave., Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada P1L 1R3 (info@v8snowblowers.com or sales@v8snowblowers.com; www.v8snowblowers.com).

First-Of-Its-Kind Outdoor Corn Boiler

"The First Outside Boiler Built Exclusively To Burn Corn As Fuel."

We recently spotted the above ad from M-D Grain in a farm magazine.

Mike DeBeau, an owner of M-D Grain says the ad's claim is true. "There's a few inside boilers made to burn corn and some of the outside wood boilers have conversions made to burn corn, but this is the first outside one that's built from the ground up to burn corn."

The Universal Corn Boiler came on the market last summer and has been selling well. "You can burn any feed grain you want in it but corn is the best bang for your buck right now."

DeBeau says people are using it to heat shops and houses. "It'll heat anything you can run a pair of water lines to."

Maximum output is 225,000 btu's with 10 1/2 bu., of corn, in a 24 hr. time frame. Minimum output is 20,700 btu's with 2 1/2 bu. within 24 hours.

The steel boiler is 24 in. wide, 59 in. high and 65 in. long and weighs 770 lbs. It has a 5/8-in. rolled steel burn pot and water channels through a 36-gal. boiler vessel for heat transfer.

It's a bottom-fed design where corn comes in from a wagon or bin and an auger pushes it to the bottom of the pot where the corn comes up. Burning takes place at the top and corn residue (called clinkers) falls off to the sides.

The boiler is controlled through an aquastat and timers. "If you want the water at 170 degrees, you program that number in and when the water temp reaches that setting, it goes into a pilot mode where it shuts the air down and the augers keep feeding enough corn in to keep the fire going," he says. "When the water temp drops to your setting, the unit feeds corn and opens the damper."

You use wood pellets and isopropyl alcohol to start it and let it go. You never have to shut the boiler down for cleaning.

There's very little ash but you need to clean

out clinkers about once a day to once a week, depending on how much corn you're using.

"You rake the clinkers into a metal bucket and put them on a field or garden. It's good fertilizer." You also need to scrape off the heat exchangers every once in a while; this is done from the outside with pull handles.

Sells for \$5,595.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M-D Grain, 30726 850th Ave., Blooming Prairie, Minn. 55917 (ph 507 583-5088; mdgrain@hotmail.com).



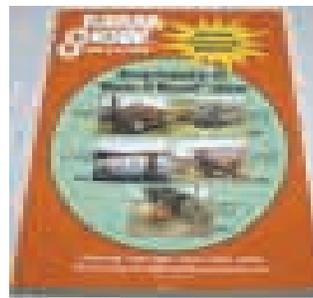
The Universal Corn Boiler is built from the ground up to burn corn. "You can burn any feed grain you want in it, but corn is the best bang for your buck right now," says the company.

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