

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Baer installed an "Easy Up" silage distributor, left, in his 25 by 90 Harvestore.

"How I Helped My Harvestore"

Haylage hard spots have always been a problem for Larry Baer inside his 25-by-90 and his 25-by-80 Harvestore® silos.

"The Harvestore drop chute drops haylage directly down the center so that it forms a mound that gradually fills out to the sides. The haylage always hits in the center, creating packed hard spots that cause problems for the unloader," the Marshallville, Ohio, farmer told FARM SHOW.

"When we come across a hard spot we've got to repeatedly stop, reverse and restart our unloaders. Mostly it's only an aggravation and an extra ten or 15 minutes. But sometimes it's so bad that it can take an extra man or two up to several extra hours."

Baer solved the problem by mounting an "Easy-Up" silage distributor directly under the Harvestore drop chute. The Easy-Up looks like the business end of a scoop shovel. Powered by a small electric motor, it slowly rotates 360°, spreading forage material in flat even layers. Spread patterns can be adjusted by simply changing the angle of the deflector. "The silo fills up almost perfectly level with the Easy-Up installed. Without the Easy-Up, a 15-ft. hump forms in the center and slopes out to the sides," says Baer.

"Since we've been using it, we no longer have to continually start and stop the unloader to back away from hard spots and we have much less wear and tear on equipment," he adds, noting that he also uses the

distributor to handle high-moisture corn.

Baer says his Harvestore dealer is skeptical about the Easy-Up spreading method, apparently concerned that it will prevent a cone from forming over the unloader. Baer, however, is satisfied it works. He uses it in both of his Harvestores and has had no problems in nearly two years of use, servicing his 350-cow herd. "Another important benefit is that we are able to put 10 to 15 more tons of haylage into the silos because it packs in better."

John Shankland, Doylestown, Ohio, inventor of the Easy-Up silage distributor, has been manufacturing the units for the past 21 years.

They've been used in Madison, Rochester, Sealstore and Cropstore silos (all oxygen limiting) but, with the exception of a few experimental units, have not been used regularly in Harvestores.

"It works great not only for haylage but also to spread high-moisture corn because it distributes the fines evenly throughout the structure. We're excited about the interest Baer and other Harvestore owners are showing in our system and hope to sign up Harvestore dealers throughout the country," says Shankland.

The Easy-Up distributor sells for \$589.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Shankland, 3J Manufacturing, 437 S. Portage Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230 (ph 216 658-2529).

Forced Corn Pollination

An airplane engine and propeller mounted on a highboy tractor do a great job forcing pollination during calm days in July and August at Moore Seed Farms near Elsie, Mich. Carter Moore, who farms with his father Bob and brother Alan, told FARM SHOW the idea could be used in any cornfield.

The Moores raise about 400 acres of seed corn and many of the inbred lines they use have a low pollen yield. During pollination, they run the airplane engine and prop through the field every day, aiming the prop just above the tassles so that the pollen blows high into the air. In many of the inbreds, they say, they can notice a doubling of yields — versus crops grown without the mechanical "pollination improver."

"On windy days, there's no problem. But, when the wind dies, it really helps," Carter told FARM SHOW. The Moores bought the en-

gine and prop for \$1,000 from a man who salvages wrecked airplanes. Mounted on the highboy, it burns 9 to 10 gal. of regular gas per hour at the same time they blow pollen. They also use the prop to apply Sevin to corn fields to control adult rootworms. A spray boom is mounted downwind of the propeller and is fitted with 100 psi cone spray nozzles. Because of the capacity of the propeller-driven mist, Sevin is applied at lower than 1/4 to 1/5th normal rates.

The 6-cyl. engine and prop can treat 80 to 90 rows at a pass traveling at 2 to 3 mph.

"This idea would work well with any type of foliar fertilizers or late season insecticides. It provides an even coat over the entire plant," says Carter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moore Seed Farms, Rt. 1, Elsie, Mich. 48831 (ph 517 862-4686).

In-Barn Round Bale Slicer

"It's a real simple way for farmers to feed out large round bales in their stanchion barns," says Doug Bohn, a Berlin, Wis. implement dealer who's come up with a way for dairy farmers to feed big round bales out of their drive-through haymows using the Dew Eze Super Slicer.

With Bohn's set up, the wheels are removed from the Super Slicer and it's set on the haymow floor over the chute. You put the bale on the 77-in.

wide feed-in track with your loader and let the bale feed into the self-cleaning, variable speed, double bar sickle. The conveyor and sickle are powered hydraulically by a power pack.

Super Slicer sells for \$4,250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Bohn, Bohn Implement, Berlin, Wis. 54923 (ph 414 361-0515 or 4230).