Photos courtesy, Iowa Farmer Today

Picker's comprised of a 444 Deere head and a 727 New Idea husking bed, mounted on a 1660 Case chassis.

FEATURES PARTS FROM THREE DIFFERENT MANUFACTURERS

Farmers Harvest With "Color Coded" Picker

"We wanted a self-propelled picker but we didn't like what we saw on the market. So we built it ourselves," says Allan Sander, Arcadia, Iowa who, along with his brother Paul, built a "color coded" self-propelled corn picker that combines parts from three different manufacturers.

The "hybrid" machine is made up of a 444 Deere 4-row head and a 727 New Idea husking bed mounted on a 1660 Case combine chassis. "We thought about buying a New Idea Uni-System tractor to power it but we already had the Deere head and the old Case combine," says Sander.

The first step in building the picker was stripping everything off the combine chassis except the cab, motor, drive train, tires, and chassis. Then they mounted the Deere head on the Case feederhouse, fashioning extra framework to adapt and support it. The husking bed mounts high at the rear of the machine, supported by angle iron framework. To feed corn from the header to the husking bed they extended the New Idea feeder throat using Deere parts they found at a salvage yard.

Allan says the trickiest part of building the machine was arranging drive shafts and belts on the machine. "Some of them come pretty close together," he notes.

The Sander brothers say the Deere head is key to success of the machine. "It doesn't shell as much corn as the snapper-type chains on pull-type pickers we've used in the past. It also does a better job getting low to pick up down corn than the heads on most pickers," says Allan.

Another advantage of the self-propelled picker is that it has a relatively short turning radius for good maneuverability and the husking bed is mounted high at the rear for easier unloading into a trailing wagon. Allan says it has plenty of power to pull a good-size wagon of corn. The machine picks at about 3 mph.

Using nearly all parts from salvage yards, the brothers spent about $1,800 to build the picker, including the cost of the husking bed but not including the cost of the Deere head or the Case combine, which they already had.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allan & Paul Sander, Arcadia, Iowa 51430 (ph 712 673-2745).

The Sanders say the Deere head doesn't shell much corn and does a good job picking up down corn.

Retrievers are chain-driven (left) by a hydraulic orbit motor which turns shaft that runs across top back of header.

"Down Corn" Retrievers

"Last fall they made the difference between running and not running the combine. Corn was down so bad that I was stopping all the time. I even tried harvesting in only one direction. Then, I hit on the idea of these corn retrievers. Once I put them on, I didn't have to stop once," says Illinois farmer Dave White, of Farmersville, who designed and built the special attachments to feed down corn into his 1440 International combine.

"The down corn retrievers look like five mini-trenchers mounted over the top of the snouts. I took corn picker gathering chain and mounted it on a track made of 4-ft. long sections of 1½ by 2-in. tubing. The five retrievers are on a shaft chain-driven by an orbital motor hooked into the cylinder control for the combine reel's grain table. The chains turn about ½-ft. per second," notes White.

In good standing corn, he can pivot the retrievers up and out of the way. However, the chain still turns when the retrievers are in the upright position. When in the working position, the chains ride just a few inches off the snout to feed stalks into the feed-in auger. White says that with the chain just a few inches over the feed-in auger he doesn't need to install a reel to keep stalks from bunching up at the auger.

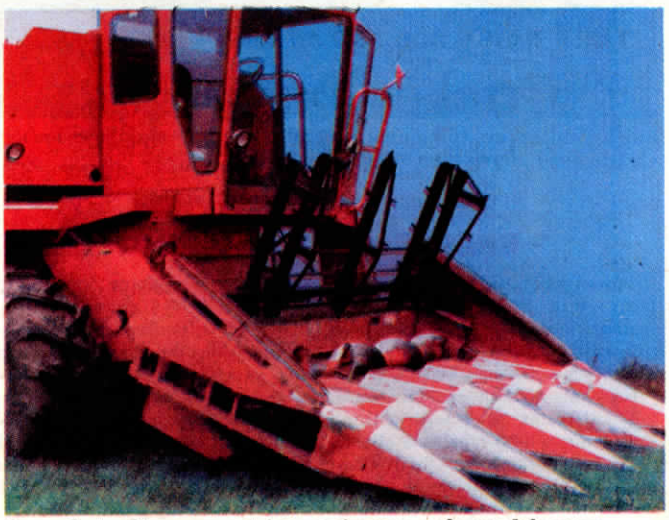
He also equipped his 4-row header with a rotor over each end snout to push stalks into the header. He notes that the rotors also keep ears from hitting the side of the head and bouncing out.

Each rotor's built out of a 5 ft. section of 2-in. square tubing. To the tubing, he fastened four sections of 4-in. wide long-wearing belting, also 5 ft. long.

The rotors are powered off the same shaft and orbital motor that power the corn retrievers and run at about 150 to 200 rpms. The 10-ft. long shaft runs along the top of the header and connects to the V-belt drive on each pulley. White notes that he used about $500 worth of scrap parts to put the retrievers together and about $250 in the original building of the rotors.

White is interested in marketing the items as either complete assemblies or as a plans kit for do-it-yourselfers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave White, Rt. 1, Box 162, Farmersville, Ill. 62533 (ph 217 227-3659).



In good-standing corn, retrievers pivot up and out of the way.