Rebuilt Spreader Works "Better Than New"

When the apron drive on a customer's Balzer manure spreader wore out, repair shop owner Terry Therkilsen, Comfrey, Minn., converted it to hydraulic drive, providing variable speed control of the apron right from the tractor cab. He also replaced the front and rusted-out sides of the 440 bu. spreader, as well as the floor.

The spreader's apron and beaters were originally chain-driven off the pto through a gear reduction box. Therkilsen connected a 30 hp Charlynn high pressure, high torque hydraulic motor to the input shaft on the gear reduction box. Motor speed is regulated by a flow control valve from the tractor cab. The beaters are still pto-driven.

The front of the spreader originally came straight down about half way to the floor, then swept back at a 45 degree angle to keep manure from falling off the front of the apron. However, the shallow angle also prevented wet manure from sliding down onto the apron. To solve the problem he used sheet metal to build a new front side that goes back at a steeper angle. The wooden floor was worn out and broken in places so he replaced it with a new plywood one.

"Converting the spreader to hydraulic drive was more expensive than rebuilding the existing drive system, but it improved performance of the spreader because of the variable speed drive," says Therkilsen. "Many farmers want to keep their old spreader instead of spending the money for a new one. I've rebuilt 10 or 12 other Balzer

spreaders in the past few years. Most of them are 15 to 20 years old and range in capacity from 300 to 500 bu. It costs about $800 to $1,200 to rebuild most spreaders and up to $2,000 for the bigger ones. The company now offers a hydraulic drive option that can be retrofitted to existing spreaders."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terry Therkilsen, Progressive Designs, Rt. 1, Box 146, Comfrey, Minn. 56019 (ph 507 723-6130).

Side-Dump Box for Bedding Freestalls

"I needed a way to bed dairy freestalls with sand," says Fred Hansen, who hit on the idea of building a "side dump" box that mounts on a flatbed trailer.

"I wanted it to be simple but it had to be able to dump out over the top of freestall dividers to get the bedding towards the front of stalls.

"The dump box can operate under a 9-ft. high ceiling, dumping from a truck or trailer bed about 4 ft. off the ground. It holds about 3.5 cu. yards of sand. The box is 8-ft. long. For more capacity, it could be made longer or additional 8-ft. units could be mounted along with this one.

"The box is made from plywood mounted on a metal frame. The hopper hinges on a metal frame. The hopper is built at an angle and hinged so it reaches far out past the edge of the flatbed. Two hydraulic cylinders do the dumping."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Hansen, 3420 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa, Calif. 95401 (ph 707 523-0282).

Extra Caster Wheel Added To Self-Propelled Swather

"Our International 175 self-propelled 16-ft. swather originally had only one rear caster wheel, and it was offset which often caused the swather to drag to one side. We moved the existing caster wheel farther out to one side of the swather and added another caster wheel on the other side. Now the swather pulls much more evenly," says J.B. Peters, Wymark, Sask.

"My father-in-law bought the used 18-ft. swather for opening fields. It always dragged to the side, especially if the ground was wet. To mount the extra caster wheel we used channel iron to extend the frame behind the engine about 12 in. back. Then we unbolted the existing caster wheel arm, pulled it out of the frame, and bolted it back on in its new location. We bought another caster wheel for $10 at a surplus parts store. We welded on steel tubing to lengthen the wheel arm and installed bearings on it that we salvaged from the cylinder off an old Deere 65 pull-type combine. We also mounted a wheel weight on the new caster wheel to match the existing wheel.

"Both caster wheels follow just outside the tracks made by the front wheels. We've used it for about three years and are very happy with it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J.B. Peters, Box 9, St. 5, RR 1, Wymark, Sask., Canada S0N 2Y0 (ph 306 773-6907) or Isaac A. Fehr, RR 1, Wymark, Sask, Canada S0N 2Y0 (ph 306 773-6854).

Handy Unloading Auger Set-Up

"For years I've had trouble trying to contain grain between two augers when unloading grain from bins. I've tried regular unloading V-boxes, homemade boxes, bales of hay, and even cement blocks," says Robert Calhan, Ottawa, Ill.

"I finally came up with a handy set-up I'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers. Lay a piece of canvas across a tractor tire inner tube. The tube only needs enough air in it to hold its shape. Place a disk blade on top of the canvas in the center of the tube.

"Rest position the unloading auger over the center of the inner tube. Position the second auger under the unload auger, resting on the disk blade. The blade protects the canvas from ripping and makes it easy to slide the auger end around to get it into the best position.

"When you're done you can pick up the canvas without loosing a kernel."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Calhan, 1324 West Lafayette, Ottawa, Ill. 61350.