Body of wagon was turned 180 degrees on its chassis so it can unload out the rear.

Silage Wagon Converted From Side Discharge To Rear Unloading

When Clark and John Poindexter switched to a bunker silo, they discovered a big problem with their side-discharge silage wagon.

The side discharge simply spread too much silage over too large an area to be practical for use in their 100-ft. long by 20-ft. wide by 7-ft. high bunk.

So the men converted the late 1970's Big Blue wagon to rear discharge, increasing both capacity and unloading speed. "It holds 8 tons now, compared with 6 tons before, and dumping time was reduced to a quarter of the time," Clark says.

The worn out front beaters and side discharge assemblies were removed, reducing overall weight by an estimated 1,000 lbs. and helping to increase capacity by making more room for silage.

They turned the body of the wagon around 180 degrees on the running gear so the worm gear drive pulls the floor chains from the rear instead of from the front, which also boosted capacity. "Because it's a more direct pull, it increases the mechanical advantage of the pulley," Clark says.

The wagon's gate was moved to the rear and fitted on each side with two spring loaded pins that catch in a link of floor chain as soon as the chains start up. That way, the door opens automatically when the pto is activated.

A belt pulley was mounted on the wagon's pto shaft. It drives a driveshaft which is mounted on the side of the wagon to drive and connected to the worm gear which drives the chains.

"We back the wagon to the silo, hook up the pto to the tractor, and engage," says Clark. "The rear gate opens automatically and the load is discharged in a few seconds. This modification is so ideal for bunker silos we converted an old side-discharge New Holland wooden silage wagon to rear discharge the same way. It held 5 tons originally and now holds 8 tons easy."

Out-of-pocket expense was about $500 apiece, including replacing both wagons' worn out tires.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clark and John Poindexter, Rt. 1, Box 287, Phenix, Va. 23959 (ph 804 376-5739 or 3303).

Stainless steel rowing frame simply clamps to the middle of the canoe.

Rowing System For Solo Canoeists

One person can handle a canoe a lot easier with this new-style clamp-on seat and oar system.

"EZ Row" consists of a 34-in. long frame made out of 1-in. stainless steel tubing that clamps to the middle of the canoe. It has standard-size oars fitted with special spoon-shaped blades that increase efficiency over conventional flat blades, according to inventor Mike Nesseth. Oars mount in special pivoting mechanical linkages equipped with brass bushings that transmit more energy to the blades to increase blade speed, he says.

A canvas suspension seat and foot straps hang from the rowing framework.

"Sitting in the middle of the canoe not only provides more comfort and leverage for the solo canoeist, but body momentum actually helps propel the boat forward," Nesseth says. "The lower center of gravity also gives the boat more stability, especially in strong winds."

The system weighs 30 lbs. and installs in about five minutes.

Sells for $350 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EZ Row, 21215 Iverson Avenue, Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 (ph 651 464-7318).

Fence is anchored with steel T-posts at the corners and fiberglass rods every 30 ft.

Raccoon Fence Protects Sweet Corn

"A guy doesn't mind sharing some of his sweet corn with raccoons occasionally. But it got so bad a few years ago they started eating it in the early blister stage, completely consuming the entire crop before it ever matured," says A.D. Baggerley.

So the Loyal, Wis., retired veterinarian set about designing an electric barbed wire fence to protect his corn.

First, he ran his rototiller around the perimeter of the one-acre patch to make a clean strip. He uses Roundup during the season to keep grasses and weeds from growing back. Then he put a 6-ft. steel T fence post in each corner of the patch and put fiberglass rods every 30 ft. along the fence.

Baggerley used two strands of light gauge electric barb wire. The lower wire is 5 in. off the ground, the upper 10 in. "Apparently, raccoons don't jump over obstacles but crawl over them so they're always grounded," Baggerley notes, adding that any fence charger can be used.

"Imagine our satisfaction when we heard a raccoon squeal after running into the fence the first night we used it," he says. "It was a learning experience for them. They learned not to bother our sweet corn any more."

Out-of-pocket expense was less than $100.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A.D. Baggerley, N10158 Park Lane, Loyal, Wis. 54446 (ph 715 255-8175).

Two strands of light gauge electric wire run at 5 and 10 in. off the ground.