



The cob saver is designed for smaller, newer Deere headers with high-speed augers.

“See-Through” Cob Saver For Deere Combine Headers

“Our new see-through cob saver for Deere corn headers bolts over the feeder auger and keeps it from throwing cobs out of the header. It’s made from expanded metal so you always have a good view of the auger and folds up out of the way for easy access to the auger,” says Jason Kubassek, an Ontario farmer and machinery fabricator.

Kubassek says lost cobs are a problem on some of the smaller, newer Deere corn heads, especially at higher auger speeds. “On header widths of 12 rows or more, Deere’s own cob catcher is standard equipment. But for smaller headers you have to order one from the com-

pany at a cost of about \$600 and it’s made of sheet metal so you can’t see through it.”

The cover is installed by removing two bolts at the side of the feederhouse opening and replacing them with eyebolts. Then you clamp the cover onto the frame and hook a couple of turnbuckles into the eyebolts. The turnbuckles allow you to adjust the distance between the cobsaver and auger.

Sells for about \$375 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brethren Metal Fabricating, Box 235, Bright, Ontario, Canada N0J 1B0 (ph 519 684-7392; fax 519 684-6785).



Dodd has greatly improved drainage on 80 acres with his land plane, traveling diagonally across the field on the first pass, then going the opposite direction on the second.

Farmer-Built Land Plane “Shapes” Wet Ground

Mark Dodd wanted a land plane to use in his soil consulting business but couldn’t justify the cost of a commercial unit.

So the Hope, Ind., farmer built his own 42-ft. long unit to cut and fill low spots and to also dig drainage ditches and waterways.

The 15-ft. wide machine has a rectangular-shaped frame built of 3-in. tube steel. It’s equipped with six 1/2-in. thick steel blades, mounted at a fixed 45 degree angle that cut a 15-ft. wide path. One 18-ft. finishing blade mounts on the rear and five 9-ft. blades spaced 10-ft. apart mount under the frame.

It features crab steering so the rear wheels follow front wheels for easy transport.

Depth is adjustable with a hydraulic cylinder mounted on both front and back. A third cylinder mounts on the tongue to move it right or left, if necessary, in transport.

A linkage on the right side, connecting the frame to adjustable pipes, permits independently adjusting cutting depth on the right side for digging ditches.

It’s fitted with four 16 by 16-in. tires that provide excellent flotation on soft ground.

The machine is manually adjusted, but Dodd eventually plans to equip it with a la-

ser mast and GPS system so it can be set to adjust itself automatically.

Cost of operation is about \$12 per acre per pass, says Dodd, who pulls the rig with a 220 hp Deere 8400 MFWD tractor. Minimum hp requirement is 130 hp, he notes.

“I recently used it on about 80 acres, traveling diagonally across the field on the first pass, then going the opposite direction on the second,” he says. “It improved my drainage considerably, as well as helped to take the load off my existing tile. I had pockets of water and old plow furrows in the field and both were eliminated in two passes. This was one of my wetter fields but now it’s one of my driest.

“Two things I’ve learned are: you have to use the machine when it’s perfectly dry and where there isn’t much trash on the ground.”

Dodd says the machine works so well he turned down an offer of \$15,000 for it.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$6,000, compared with some commercial machines that cost \$16,000 or more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Dodd, 11931 E. 800 N., Hope, Ind. 47246 (ph 812 546-5602).



Kit allows a standard-size pickup to dump up to 4,500 lbs. to an angle of 50 degrees.

Compressed Air Powers This Pickup Dump Box

If this dump box powered by an inflatable air bag looks familiar, it’s because it’s based on a system from Australia that FARM SHOW featured several years ago (Vol. 13, No. 1).

That system, however, used engine exhaust to fill the air bag. This new U.S. system has its own electric-powered air compressor.

At a weight of just 106 lbs., the kit allows a standard-size pickup to dump up to a 4,500-lb. load to an angle of 50 degrees.

To install, you unbolt the pickup bed and saw 2 to 3 in. off the end of both frame rails, then replace them with a new rear frame and bumper mounts. Two heavy-duty 1 in. dia. hinges attach to the back of the box. The air bag mounts on two thrust plates supported

by steel crossmembers. Installation takes about three hours using ordinary shop tools. Operates with a push button or optional key lock switch mounted on the dash.

Available for GMC/Chevrolet 1500, 2500 and 3500 series, Ford 150, 250 and 350 series, Ford Super 99, Ford Long-Bed, and Dodge Ram pickups.

Sells for \$1,995.

It will be available later this year for Ford Ranger, GMC Sonoma and Chevrolet S-10/15 pickups.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Load Hog Industries, 100 Steel St., Aliquippa, Pa. 15001 (ph toll-free 888 462-3867 or 724 857-0777; fax 0663).



Photo shows a small version of “rolling greenhouse”. Vandendorre built another one that’s 240 ft. long by 40 ft. wide.

Giant Portable Greenhouse Protects Fruit Trees From Freezing

Maurice Vandendorre, Aylmer, Ontario, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his home-built portable greenhouse that he uses to protect fruit trees from wind and cold.

Vandendorre grows about 60 acres of dwarf apple trees and 3 acres of peach trees, as well as raspberries and sweet cherries. His “greenhouse on wheels” is 240 ft. long and 40 ft. wide and consists of a steel frame covered by a double layer of fiberglass and plastic. He uses a pair of tractors, one at each corner, to tow it in place over his rows of trees.

During winter months he parks the greenhouse over his peaches to minimize the severity of winter. Toward the end of May he moves it over raspberries to protect them from wind and rain. After raspberry harvest he moves it in place over a grove of Granny Smith apples.

“It makes it possible for our peach trees to blossom two to three weeks earlier than nor-

mal and ripen sooner in the summer. I haven’t missed a crop of peaches since I built it five years ago,” says Vandendorre. “Our climate normally doesn’t allow Granny Smith apples to reach full maturity but with the greenhouse we’re able to grow them.

“Portable greenhouses are common in Belgium where they’re used mainly to protect vegetable crops. I built my first portable greenhouse in 1983 out of wood and a double layer of plastic and still use it. It’s 140 ft. long and 40 ft. wide and is built in two sections so that the roof and sides move separately. I had problems with the plastic ripping so I switched to using mostly fiberglass on my second model.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maurice Vandendorre, Rt. 2, Aylmer, Ontario, Canada N5H 2R2 (ph 519 773-2832).