



George Keener turned his old Baldwin combine into a high capacity, stationary grain cleaner.

Retired Combine Makes Great Seed Cleaner

Low wheat prices have most growers looking for ways to save money. Like most Kansas growers, George Keener, Rush Center, plants a lot of bin run seed. He figured he could save time and money.

He remembered how clean the grain was that came out of his old Baldwin combine. He still had one of the first ones made (1954 or 1955) sitting in the weeds on the farm. "It had been back there for years. We just parked it when we replaced it with a Deere 8820," he says. "It didn't have the capacity of the new combines, but I've always thought it was about the best combine ever made."

George pulled it up to the shop, cleaned it up, lubricated shafts, replaced a few bearings, and proceeded to turn it into a high capacity, stationary grain cleaner.

The first thing he did was to remove the header and add a hopper to pour in the grain to be cleaned. Since the engine didn't run anymore, he decided to power it with a tractor pto.

The unloading auger for the grain tank was powered by separate pulleys off the engine, so he had to first add a pto shaft to run the combine and then rig a way to get power from the new pto shaft to the auger.

"It wasn't that difficult to do," he says. "And it works beautifully. We cleaned it up and replaced a few bearings, but we didn't modify the insides at all."

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Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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Roy Hawkins converted this old International 915 combine into a forklift. He uses it to lift heavy equipment onto shelves in his machine shed and for a variety of other jobs.

IH 915 Combine Makes Handy Fork Lift

Roy Hawkins was tired of all the clutter in his machine shed.

He had five combines and seven heads in there, along with a lot of other equipment. He figured if he could build some heavy shelves and get a decent forklift, he could at least get the heads up off the floor.

He bought a used 3-stage forklift and mounted it on a tractor 3-pt. "It worked, but the tractor didn't have enough weight in front to balance bigger loads," he says. "And, the visibility was poor, too."

"I'd seen an article in FARM SHOW about a guy who converted an IH 715 combine into a fork lift, so I decided to do the same thing," Hawkins says. "I couldn't find a 715, but I found this old 915 and figured it would work as well."

He stripped the 915 down to the axles and frame. Then he had 1/4-in. plate steel rolled into a C shape to match the original frame and used this to add on to the old frame so he could drop the cab back on a couple of feet further in and a little lower than it had been on the combine. "That way, the cab is about the same height as the forklift mast," he says.

He used all four original tires and wheels, as well as the engine and hydraulic pump. "When we moved the cab, though, I had to relocate the gear shift lever to the left side of the seat. We made it fit right where the unloading auger control lever was."

He set the engine behind and slightly below the cab, leaving it exposed for access. "That way, it's also a counter weight for the fork lift, too," he says. "The biggest problem was making brackets to attach the forklift. I had a local machine shop cut the brackets from 3/4-in. plate steel to fit the drive axle. Then I welded them in place."



Lift raises 26 ft. high so Hawkins built a 4 by 16-ft. scaffold, with a 3-ft. high siderail to fit the fork, so he could use it to put new siding on his house.

"The whole conversion wasn't that difficult. It just took some time to get everything right," he says.

To counterbalance the load on the front, he hung 1,800 lbs. of IH front end weights on the back of the frame. "I've picked up as much as 8,000 lbs. on the fork with no problems," he says.

Hawkins has found all kinds of uses for his 915 forklift. The lift raises 26 ft. high. He built a 4 by 16-ft. scaffold, with a 3-ft. high siderail to fit the fork, so he could use it to put new siding on his house. He also built a boom which he's used to set rafters in place while building a shed.

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