

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products.

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"BEST USE OF CORN IS TO BURN IT"

Self-Stoking Shelled Corn Furnace

by Mark Newhall Associate Editor

"Why should we waste money and energy to turn corn into alcohol when we could just as effectively burn the corn itself?" asks John Finnegan, of New London, Minn., one of three inventors of an automatic, self-stoking furnace.

Unlike anything you've ever seen, the furnace can also be used as a grain dryer. It's designed to burn shelled corn, as well as a variety of other solid residue fuels, including chopped corn cobs, or ear corn, pelleted manure, sawdust, coal or other pelleted or chunk-style materials.

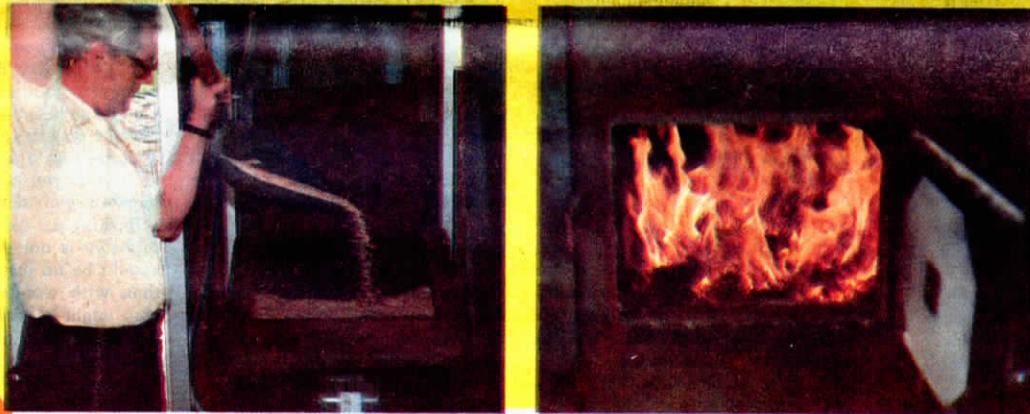
Finnegan says the new Solid Fuel Systems furnace requires no daily, on-going maintenance and needs no more cleaning than an ordinary coal furnace. Corn, or other residue, is moved automatically into the firebox by a

thermostatically-controlled auger. The entire furnace and stoker is self-contained on a portable platform that wheels easily from barn to barn, dryer to dryer.

The first prototype was built last spring by Finnegan, a farmer and farm builder, and his partners Dale Flickinger, a heating systems contractor, and Dennis Damman, owner-operator of a machine shop. The inventors maintain that three to five acres of corn can provide enough "fuel" to heat an average-size home for a year, at a cost much cheaper than fuel oil or propane.

"One bushel of shelled or ear corn approximately

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