



After conversion, cutterhead is fitted with 27 knives and a "kernel cracker" that requires virtually no horsepower to operate, according to Eder.

## He Converts Cutterheads On Older Forage Harvesters To Newer Multi-Knife System

"The biggest difference between some older self-propelled forage harvesters and new ones are the multi-knife cutterheads, which do a much better job at less horsepower," says Joe Eder, North Collins, N.Y., who decided to modify the cutterhead on his older model Fox Super-D forage harvester rather than spend the money on a new machine.

The conversion worked so well, Eder started converting cutterheads for other farmers. He changes a 6 or 9-knife cutterhead to the 27-knife system found on new Deere machines. He uses the existing cutterhead and shaft, cutting off the old knives and installing Deere parts.

"The conversion boosts capacity 25 to 30 percent and reduces horsepower consumption. Last fall I was able to increase travel speed from 3.2 mph to 5.5 mph, but that will vary with conditions. My Fox self-propelled forage harvester was a great machine except for the cutterhead. Now it

runs like new," says Eder, who is a three-time national tractor puller so he's used to modifying equipment.

Eder converts Hesston, Field Queen, and New Holland machines. Basically, any harvester that does not have a multi-knife system. You simply ship him your older cutterhead, he makes the conversion, balances it, and ships it back.

Eder also installs a kernel cracker plate that cracks 85 to 90 percent of the kernels using virtually no additional horsepower. Crop material passes through the plate's stand-up knives on its way to the blower.

"It's another way to modernize an older machine without spending a fortune on new equipment," he notes.

The cutterhead modification costs \$3,150. Eder guarantees a 15-day turn-around.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Eder, 4281 Shirley Rd., North Collins, N.Y. 14111 (ph 716 337-2694).



After reading about other combine conversions in FARM SHOW, Louis Vaessen decided to try one of his own.

## Latest New Combine Grain Hauler

By Mark Newhall, Editor

If you've been reading FARM SHOW for long, you know we've tracked down a number of innovative farmers who've turned old combines into tractor loaders, self-propelled sprayers, and self-propelled grain carts. Each one is unique and different in its own way.

Recently, a farmer with his own combine conversion tracked us down. We were manning our exhibit at the Farm Progress Show in Iowa last fall when Lois Vaessen stopped by to tell us he had something we might like to see. He said he'd been inspired by other FARM SHOW innovators to turn an old IH combine into a self-propelled auger wagon.

Vaessen bought a "junked" IH 815 combine for \$500 and proceeded to strip it down to the frame, selling several hundred dollars worth of parts off the machine in the process. He reversed the drive on the machine, mounting the cab and the original V-8 engine on the rear end and installing a custom-built grain cart over the drive wheels. He built the 400 bu. grain box himself out of 22 ga. sheet metal, modeling it after a commercial-built

cart. He took the metal to a local mill to bend it.

One of the most difficult chores was reversing the drive axle and rerouting all the controls. All the original cables were long enough to reach. He flipped the drive axle over to run in the opposite direction. The combine is hydrostatically-driven.

Vaessen put a big 14-in. dia. auger on the cart for fast unloading. It swings out into position hydraulically and has extra reach. Vaessen says he has more invested in the auger than anything else on the machine.

"I started converting the combine last July and was done by harvest. It worked fine last fall except for a problem with the auger drive, which I need to fix," he says, noting that the auger's driven by the separator drive. He uses the reel control to open and shut a slide gate on the box.

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Vaessen patterned his home-built 400-bu. grain cart after a commercial rig. His biggest cash outlay was for the 14-in. dia. unloading auger.



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