

Bin Cap opens, closes from ground level via a hand winch.

BIN CAP AND GRAVITY GAUGE

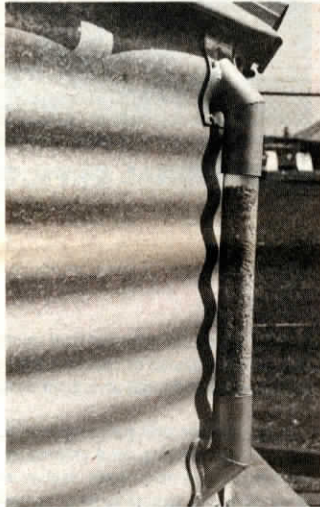
New "Step Saving" Bin Attachments

You can virtually eliminate ladder climbing with these new "step saving" attachments from Bin Cap Inc., Willmar, Minn.

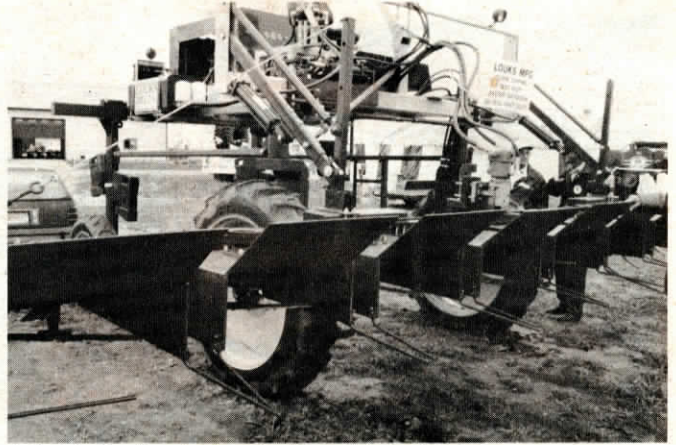
Bin Cap: It opens for ventilation, or closes if you suspect rain or snow, right from ground level via a hand-operated winch. Made of 10 ga. galvanized steel, it's rated at 800 lbs. psi. Weighs right at 30 lbs. and sells for \$169.

Gravity Gauge: This 2 ft. long clear plastic tube (2in. dia.) lets you know at a glance how full the bin is. You can mount it at the top to signal "full bin", or at any other point along the bin wall where you want to know the "fill" level. As grain is emptied out of the bin, the "waterproof" sight gauge also empties.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bin Cap Inc., P.O. Box 1127, Willmar, Minn. 56201 (ph 1-800-255-8655).



As grain is emptied out of the bin, the 2-ft. long sight gauge also empties.



A single hydraulic motor in center drives all 8 sets of blades.

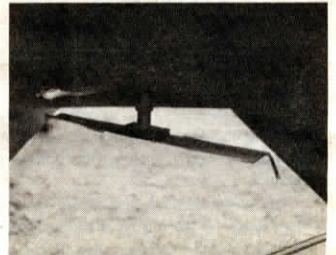
LETS THE SUN SHINE IN

Stalk-Topping Machine Speeds Corn Dry-Down

Chopping off stalks and foliage above the ear on cornstalks speeds corn dry-down by several weeks, according to Gordon Louks, an Iowa farmer and manufacturer who's tried the idea for the past 3 seasons with a new corn-topping machine.

Louks Mfg. Co. makes both the corn topper and the high-boy tractor that Gordon uses to carry it through full-grown stalks. The 8-row topper consists of 8 hooded row units with two "lawn mower" size blades per row. A single hydraulic motor at the center of the machine powers all 8 sets of blades with a series of belts and drive pulleys. As soon as kernels mature, Louks starts working his way through the crop at about 7 mph. He cuts off everything above the ear, covering about 15 acres per hour.

According to Louks, "topped" corn comes in off the field 3 to 4% lower in moisture than "untopped" corn. He planted 9527 Northrup King on May 3, "topped" it August 28 and picked it at September 28 at 15.01%. "We're excited about the way it helps corn dry down. It also picks cleaner



Two blades per row cut off everything above the ears.

with all the top foliage cut away," Gordon told FARM SHOW. He says the topper has also been used in sweet corn to prevent dockage.

Louks says the topper works on any high-boy tractor. For more information on both the corn topper and the tractor, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Louks Manufacturing Co., Rt. 2, Gilman, Iowa 50106 (ph 515 476-3962).

MOTOR MOUNTED IN BACK TO GIVE OPERATOR CLEAR VIEW

Handy Loader Made From Combine Axles

A home-made, self-propelled, 4-WD loader built from two combine axles, an automobile motor, some hydraulics and miscellaneous used equipment is helping Montana farmer Sterling Wolery, of Joplin, do jobs his 2-WD tractors can't handle.

Wolery, who calls his unconventional machine the "Earthworm," built it for about \$15,000. It's made with the motor mounted in back and the loader up front, an arrangement which offers two key benefits: First, the engine adds weight to the rear and acts as a counterweight on the loader. Second, without a motor up front, there's a clear view ahead, Wolery points out.

He shortened two Massey 90 combine drive axles to 8 ft., then added a Chevrolet 283 engine and a 4-speed transmission which operates an oil pump that provides hydrostatic drive for the entire machine. "The oil lines are the only connection be-

tween the two differentials. There's no mechanical connection," explains Wolery.

"The hookup really works slick. I can change directions just by controlling a lever that reverses the flow of oil. The drive is hydraulically powered so I can work with an infinite range of speeds. That way, during any job, I can keep the motor at a constant speed, yet I can vary the machine's speed range from slow to fast. Steering is accomplished through a steering wheel that activates a hydraulic cylinder which bends the machine in the middle."

Wolery uses the loader for a variety of jobs, such as rock picking, handling round bales and moving dirt and grain. "It's especially nice for cleaning manure out of corrals and for handling big round bales."

If he was to build another similar rig, Wolery says he'd "put a little more length to it to get the engine lower down, and to make



Steering wheel activates a hydraulic cylinder which bends the machine in the middle.

for a smoother ride when picking rocks in the field. I'd sacrifice a little maneuverability for a better ride."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sterling Wolery, Box 22, Rt. 1, Joplin, Mont. 59531 (ph 406 292-3513).