

# FARM SHOW

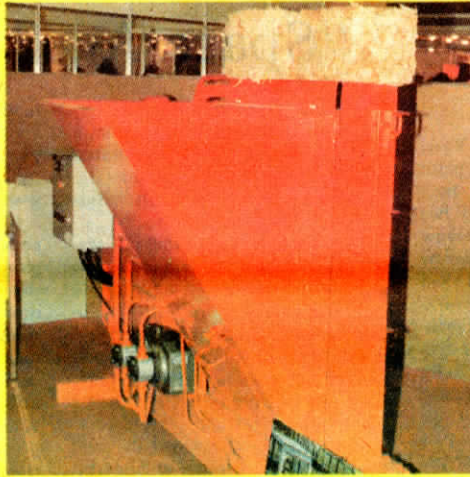
For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products. Carries no advertising!

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## "BRICK MAKER" PRODUCES 15-LB. BLOCKS OF COBS TO BURN IN WOOD STOVES

### Corn Cobs Fuel New Energy Idea

By Mark Newhall, Editor



Cobs feed into the tractor-mounted machine's hopper, top photo. Hydraulic rams compress cobs into 15-lb. "bricks", bottom, with no water or other additive.

More than 3 years after first reading in FARM SHOW about a corn cob "brick maker" from France, Earl Wittrock has installed one of the machines on his Carroll, Iowa, farm.

Working through letters and overseas phone calls, Wittrock persuaded the company to sell him a demonstrator model which is the first to enter the U.S. The machine, built by ComDec in Dijon, France, is scheduled to go into full production soon and Wittrock plans to set up as U.S. distributor. "Testing of initial models took longer than the company first anticipated," Wittrock notes.

The pto-powered, 3-pt. mounted machine can be easily moved from place to place. Wittrock says he can make about 150 15-lb. bricks an hour from corn cobs at about 14% moisture. High pressure—about 4,000 psi—is used to compress the cobs into 8 by 8 by 16-in. long bricks without adding water or any other additive. Cobs simply feed into the 1-ton machine's hopper and a pair of packers, powered by 5-in. dia. hydraulic cylinders, compresses them into bricks.

"I've also used it to compress wood chips and it'll work on other mate-

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