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Twelve-foot Haybine mounts on front of Bahl's Deere 4450 MFWD tractor.

"LETS US CUT HAY TWICE AS FAST"

Front-Mount Mower Speeds Up Haying

John Bahl needed a way to cut hay faster but he couldn't justify spending the money for a new swather. The Sherrill, Iowa, farmer solved the problem by modifying a used New Holland 499 12-ft. Haybine and mounting it on front of his Deere 4450 MFWD tractor.

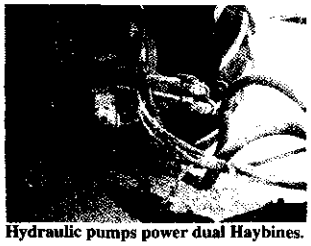
Bahl pulls another New Holland 499 12-ft. Haybine behind the tractor. "It works as good as a self-propelled swather but cost only about one third as much," says Bahl.

He paid $4,850 for the used Haybine. He removed the tongue and wheels and used 3 by 5-in. steel tubing to build a subframe on back that hooks up to quick-tach loader mounting brackets on the tractor - two over the front axle and two between the front and rear wheels. The subframe is equipped with leg stands made from 2 by 6-in. steel tubing that make hookup easy.

The sicklebars on both cutting units were originally designed to be powered by a pto-driven hydraulic pump. Bahl made an oil-bathed chain drive gearbox that's powered by the tractor pto and is used to drive two hydraulic pumps, one for each Haybine.

"It lets us cut hay twice as fast as we could before but with only half the fuel and labor that would be required with two pull-type swathers," says Bahl, who made the conversion with help from his son Rusty. "We spent a total of about $7,000 including about $2,000 to build the subframe and gearbox and to modify the hydraulics. We've used it for six years and have cut about 1,000 acres per year with no problems. At first it's difficult trying to watch both units at the same time but after a while you get used to it. We mounted extra mirrors inside the tractor cab to make it easier to see the rear unit without having to turn around.

"We didn't modify the original drive components or lift mechanism at all. We use



Hydraulic pumps power dual Haybines.

three remote outlets on the tractor - one to raise or lower the front unit, one to raise or lower the rear unit, and one to swing the rear unit from side to side. One man can hook up both cutters in only about 15 minutes.

"It takes about 60 hp to operate each unit so our 130 hp 4450 has all it can handle, especially because we have hilly land. The front wheel assist really comes in handy, especially on the first cutting when the ground is usually soft. One advantage of using a front-mount mower is that we don't drive over any hay when opening the field or when cutting next to terraces. We make two rounds around the outside of the field so that it's easier to turn at the end of the field. Then we cut straight back and forth across the field. We hooked two 9 1/2-ft. rakes together so that we can rake everything in the same direction that we cut which seems to help the rakes pick up the hay better.

"We swath all our hay instead of windrowing it because we cut hay at 40% moisture for haylage and want it to dry as quickly as possible. We store the haylage in bottom-unload silos or silo bags."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Bahl, 18820 Riegler Road, Sherrill, Iowa 52073 (ph 319 552-2342).

Folding Corn Head Now On The Market

Folding corn heads have been on the market in Europe for several years. Now one of those units is being imported to North America.

The Italian-built Capello head folds up and also chops stalks with chopper blades mounted under each snout. The innovative header attracted a lot of attention at the recent SIMA Show in Montreal, Quebec.

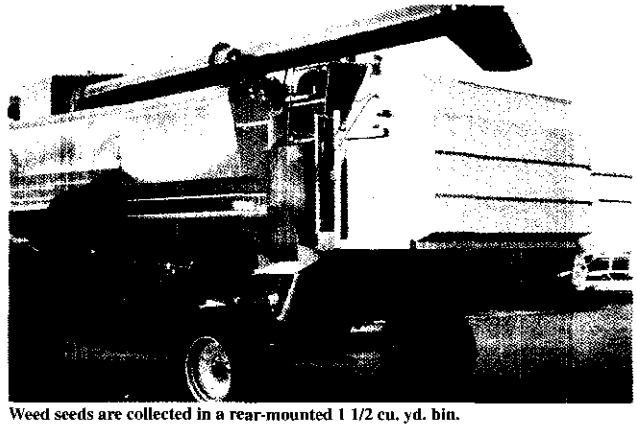
"It's the first and only folding corn head I'm aware of in North America," says David Acres of Acres Tillage and Planting Systems, Winchester, Ontario.

The head comes in four to 12 row (20-in. through 36-in. spacings) models. It features tip-up snouts for easy maintenance and hydraulically adjustable deck plates to compensate on-the-go for various size ears.

The 3-blade rotary stalk choppers underneath each row unit can be quickly and easily idled by disconnecting one pin. The gear-driven chopper units require 3 to 4 hp per row to operate.

A 6-row folding head sells for $34,000 (U.S.). All sizes available in non-folding models.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acres Tillage and Planting Systems, Main St. West, Winchester, Ontario, Canada KOC 2KO (ph 613 774-2834, fax 2262).



Weed seeds are collected in a rear-mounted 1 1/2 cu. yd. bin.

Combine-Mounted Weed Seed Collection System

By Jim Houtsma, Associate Editor

Soon after the last issue of FARM SHOW came out featuring the combine-mounted weed seed collector built by Canadian farmer Glenn Reicheld, Warren Loewen, who manufactures low-priced combine replacement parts, called to let us know there's already a commercial weed seed collector on the market.

Loewen runs Loewen Manufacturing in Altona, Manitoba, in the course of business, he had come across the Rytech Weed Collection System built in Australia. It's been used there for two years to collect up to 90 percent of weed seeds harvested along with grain. Fifteen units are in operation. They're sold by Harvestaire, a Balcatta, Western Australia, supplier of combine replacement parts and add-ons.

The system consists of an extended sieve section added to the back of the top sieve. It separates weed seeds from the flow of chaff. Seeds collect in a hopper under the sieve and are augered to a hydraulically-dumped 1 1/2 cu. yd. bin mounted on the back of the combine. Seeds are dumped in small piles throughout the field. They can later be collected or simply burned where they lie.

A control box in the cab turns augers off and on and a bin-full light tells when it's time to dump the bin.

An electro-hydraulic manifold plumbs into the existing hydraulics to tilt the bin and start the augers. Operation requires about 1 gpm.

The 7 1/2-ft. long by 3-ft. high by 2-ft. deep bin attaches to a bolt-on mounting frame that can easily be taken off and transferred to another combine.

Bin tilts hydraulically, dumping piles of weed seeds onto field.

Installation takes about 16 hours and can be done yourself. The kit includes how-to photos and instructions.

Available for Case IH 1600 series combines (including long sieve), Deere 8820 Titan and 9600, and New Holland TR97.

Sells for $9,500 to $9,750 (Australian).

Contact: Harvestaire Pty. Ltd., 18 Mumford Place, Balcatta, Western Australia 6021 (ph 61 9 3447433, fax 3453506).

Outer rows on Capello heads fold up to make transport easier.

Stalk choppers mount under row units.