



Karl Herr no longer needed his 42-ft. dia. Harvestore Slurrystore, so he put a roof on it and cut a big door into the side to convert it to a hay shed.



An 8-in. dia. vertical steel pipe runs up middle of structure and is used to support custom made trusses, which rest on a thick steel plate welded to pipe.

“Slurrystore” Converted To Hay Shed

“When our dairy farm outgrew our 42-ft. dia. Harvestore Slurrystore, I put a roof on it and cut a big door into the side. Works great for storing big square bales,” says Karl Herr, Oxford, Penn.

Herr had the idea but says his friend Tom Martin actually did most of the work.

The key to success of the building is an 8-in. dia., vertical steel pipe that runs up the middle of the structure and extends 5 ft. above the Slurrystore walls. A 1/2-in. thick steel plate is welded to the pipe at

the same height as the top of the walls. Custom made trusses rest on the plate and are strapped in place. The opposite ends of the trusses set on top of vertical steel posts spaced 8 ft. apart and bolted to the outside walls. A white sheet metal roof goes over the top.

“The Slurrystore walls aren’t designed to handle down pressure, just lateral pressure from the inside, which is why I didn’t set the trusses on top of the walls,” says Herr.

The bottom ends of the posts simply set on the Slurrystore’s concrete floor. However, the pipe that supports the trusses is bolted down to the floor via a steel plate welded to the bottom of the pipe.

The 9 by 12-ft. door was made by unbolting two sheets from the Slurrystore’s walls.

“It works great. I think old Slurrystores could also be converted into farm shops or used for equipment or grain storage. I plan to convert the door opening into a pair of swinging doors to

keep rain and snow out. I also plan to mount lights on the trusses.”

As a final touch, Herr used angle iron to make a big 5-ft. tall “Christmas star” and mounted it on one side of the structure.

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Truck Box Grain Aeration

“I installed portable aeration systems in two of my grain trucks,” says Roger Gutschmidt of Gackle, N. Dak. “It allows me to start combining before the crop is completely dry. For example, sometimes the outside round is wetter than the rest of the field, maybe because of grass and weeds on the perimeter.”

He says the home-built system means he can dry down 17 percent moisture wheat, corn, beans, soybeans, or whatever, in just a couple of hours using a Caldwell 3/4 hp aeration fan.

“These batch aeration systems get a lot of use in my operation. It certainly was well worth the time and expense putting them in my trucks,” Gutschmidt says. “My neighbors even borrow my trucks once in a while if they have some ‘hot’ grain. Nobody wants to mess around putting 800 to 900 bushels of wet grain in a bin and have to babysit it to get the moisture where it’s supposed to be. And the local grain elevators don’t want wet grain.”

Gutschmidt’s trucks are ’72 and ’76 Chevy single axles with 16-ft. long boxes. He simply connected 12-in. dia. perforated aeration tubing to the Caldwell drying fan.

A 14-ft. section of tube lays on the truck box floor. It’s short enough that it doesn’t hinder the grain’s exit from the end gate during unloading. The back end of the tube is open - Gutschmidt says that a cap would only

prevent grain that has fallen into the tube through the perforations from getting back out.

Since each truck holds 400 to 450 bu., he installed one “anti-collapse ring” on the floor aeration tube, otherwise the weight of the grain could collapse it.

“The two big 12-in. elbows I needed for this system were hard to find,” Gutschmidt points out. “I ordered them from McMaster-Carr Supply Co. in Chicago, Ill., and they were only \$13 each. I have one on the front end of the floor tube and one at the top of the truck box.”

Since a 3/4 hp fan is normally used on a 2,500-bu. aeration bin, it doesn’t take very long to dry the 450 bu. truck box of grain.

“You can’t tarp the load when the fan is running because it will blow the tarp right off the truck,” he cautions.

The fan plugs into a 110-volt outlet, so Gutschmidt permanently mounted a short, 14-ga. extension cord from the fan to the bottom corner of the truck box so he can easily plug into a longer extension cord from the ground.

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Truck-mounted portable aeration system “allows me to start combining before the crop is completely dry,” says Roger Gutschmidt. System makes use of a 3/4 hp aeration fan mounted above truck cab.



A 14-ft. section of tube lays on truck box floor. It’s short enough that it doesn’t hinder grain’s exit from end gate during unloading.

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