



Sickle blade-style grain grabbers are welded into center of auger where they help feed crop material into feederhouse.

Sickle Blade “Grabbers” Feed Crop Through Faster

The crop flows into Stephen Carpenter’s combine faster and smoother since he installed his sickle blade-style grain grabbers. Carpenter had heard about “grabbers” that could be installed between auger flights to let the reel run higher for less shattering. The idea is to make the crop feed more evenly to the center.

“I didn’t want to spend money for the real thing, so I thought I would try single sickle blades instead,” he says.

Originally, Carpenter had the blades spread out between the flights. But prior to last fall’s harvest, he concentrated them in the center to feed crop material more aggressively.

Carpenter cut out the fingers originally found at the auger center. He welded about a dozen blades at roughly the same spacing as the old fingers.

“I was afraid they might shatter the grain or cause the crop to wind up around the auger,” he says. “Instead they worked great. They seem to size the crop and feed it in smoother. Last fall I ran crop through my combine faster than ever.”

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Bin Wall Spacer Protects Stored Grain

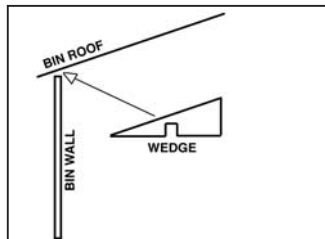
Nyle Jurgensen has a simple way to protect grain in bins from roof condensation. He slips a simple spacer between the bin wall and the roof.

“The roof sheets on many grain bins are tightened down on the side walls, so any moisture moving down the underside of the roof goes down the inside of the wall,” explains Jurgensen. “It spoils the grain along the wall and at floor level.”

The answer, he says, is simply to separate the wall from the roof. Jurgensen cuts wedges out of brace irons from old telephone pole cross arms to make his spacers. He says it’s important that they aren’t too big.

“One fellow had a 2-in. gap between the wall and the roof, and sparrows were able to get in,” says Jurgensen. “My spacers maintain a gap of about 3/8-in., and the water that condenses on the inside of the roof drains down the outside of the walls instead.”

He cuts the brace metal to make a wedge-shaped piece about 1 in. wide and 2 in. long with one right angle. A notch is cut in the side to match the bin wall.

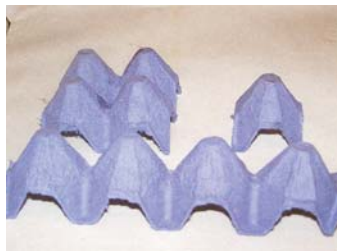


Spacer separates bin wall from roof, allowing roof condensation to escape outside instead of down interior wall.

“There are no bolts, no holes, no welding,” says Jurgensen. “Just raise the bin roof on the inside and jam the wedge in until the notch sits against the side wall.”

Jurgensen places a spacer every few feet as needed to maintain the spread. It’s a simple fix that protects grain quality without hurting the bin, he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nyle Jurgensen, 3076 Valleyview Trail, Prole, Iowa 50229 (ph 515 462-3007).



Fire starters were made by cutting up egg trays so each cup is separate, and then stacking them in a bucket.

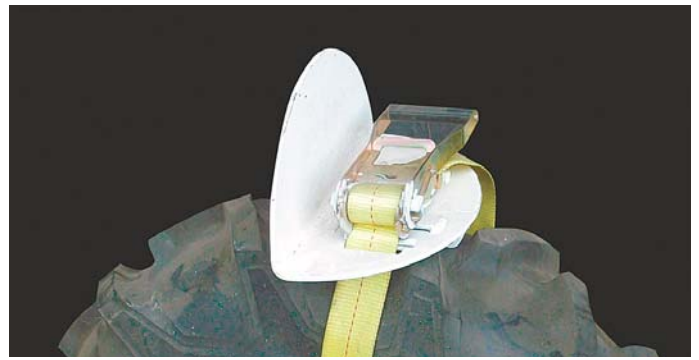
Inexpensive Fire Starters

“We heat our home and office with wood stoves so we’re constantly starting fires. Our firewood is stored outside so sometimes it’s difficult to get it going. We tried commercial fire starters but were going through a couple boxes a month,” says Regina Hoffman, Eagle Point, Ore.

“I cut up some egg trays so each egg cup

is separate and stack them in a bucket. I add used vegetable fry oil, which would normally have been thrown out. The egg cups soak up the oil. We can use more than one to start a fire, if needed. Works very well.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Regina Hoffman, 9500 S. Fork Little Butte Ck. Rd., Eagle Point, Ore. 97524.



“The Kleat” straps onto center pivot irrigation wheel, allowing it to walk right out of mud.

Easy Way To “Unstuck” Center Pivots

When a wheel on his pivot irrigator got seriously stuck, an Idaho farmer feared he might have to hire a crane to get it moving again. But he decided to try The Kleat invented by Dan Glodowski first. The farmer strapped on two Kleats and the irrigation wheel walked right out of the mire.

Glodowski made his first Kleat prototype about four years ago when a neighbor was in a similar situation. He refined the design, making it out of 3/16-in. steel with a ratchet and strap that goes through the rim. He recommends putting two or three on each stuck tire so one is always in the ground.

“It’s kind of like putting on chains,” Glodowski says. The Kleat weighs about 10 lbs. and is meant for temporary use.

Suggested retail for The Kleat is \$60. Contact Glodowski to buy direct or to locate nearby dealers. Glodowski sells The Kleat and pressure control valves invented by his father through about 120 irrigation dealers, mostly located in the West. He welcomes dealer inquiries.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Glodowski, The Navigator, 2400 South Lincoln, Jerome, Idaho 83338 (ph 208 324-5174; www.navigatorvalve.com).

Easy Way To Remove Stumps

Gene Schendt had some tree stumps in his yard that needed to go, so the Lawrence, Neb., man came up with a simple solution.

“My wife was really tired of having to go around the stumps when mowing the lawn and sometimes hitting them with the mower deck. First, I tried to bite into them with the loader bucket to uproot them, but that ended up getting too rough on the equipment,” Schendt explains. “Rather than hiring someone for \$90 an hour with a stump grinder, I found a method that was essentially free, easy and worked excellent.”

He simply harnessed the power of fireplace embers to burn the roots out.

“For this to work, the stumps need to be good and dry - at least 3 to 5 years old. I did it in the winter and dumped some embers on the top of each stump,” he says. “Each stump kept smoking like a cigarette for about a week until they were completely burnt up - even the roots down underground. In the spring, we filled in the holes with dirt. You could probably do this using charcoal briquettes as well.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Schendt, GT Metal, P.O. Box 187, Lawrence, Neb. 68957 (ph 402 756-7835; gtmc.net).

Baler belt hangs freely from tractor drawbar just ahead of hitch pin, compressing windrow so it feeds smoothly into baler.



Drawbar-Mounted Belt Speeds Up Baling

A piece of old round baler belt bolted to his tractor’s drawbar speeds up baling for J. W. Randolph Jr., of Franklin, Ky.

The belt, which hangs freely from a bolt that goes through the drawbar just ahead of the drawbar’s hitch pin, compresses the windrow so it feeds smoothly into the baler. The belt also keeps hay from hanging up on the drawbar.

Randolph simply cuts an 18-in. length from an old round baler belt. He bores a hole that’s centered about 2 in. from one end of the belt and bolts it to the drawbar, using an existing

hole in front of the drawbar’s main hitch pinhole. The slick side of the belt is against the ground.

“The belt slides easily over the hay, pressing it down just enough to improve operation,” says Randolph, whose idea was a finalist in the Farm Bureau’s invention contest this year.

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