

"AIR SNORKELS" AND "TLC" KEEP OLD COMBINES RUNNING "GOOD AS NEW"

He Farms With Used Equipment

By C. F. Marley

"Every now and then, the boys at the local Deere dealership try to get me to buy new equipment. I just tell them that whenever they decide to pay for it, I'll take new stuff. But, as long as I'm paying for it, I'll just keep what I've got," says Illinois farmer Roger Foster, of Tower Hill. He's a top-notch mechanic with a knack for modifying older machines to make them perform better — and longer.

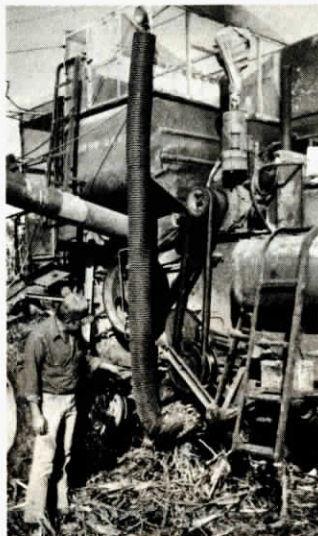
Take, for example, his "stable" of four vintage combines which he uses regularly every year. The lineup includes a 24-year old Deere 95 with a permanently installed corn head, and three Deere 55's (27, 26 and 16 years old). The 27-year old machine is powered by a 27-year old Chevrolet 283 engine.

To get more air to the blower on his Deere 95, and eliminate the problem of husks plugging the screen, he installed two air intake "snorkels" — one on each side of the combine (see photo).

The old 95 also suffered from lack of horsepower as originally equipped. So, seven years ago, Foster equipped it with a 400 Chevrolet engine which had logged 48,000 miles. Before starting harvest last fall, he pulled the engine, gave it a complete overhaul, then reinstalled it.

"We raise corn, soybeans and wheat, and having four combines means we don't have to bother changing heads for whatever crop we're harvesting," says Foster. His completely equipped farm shop has big enough doors to accommodate all of his vintage combines.

"Many times in the fall we can harvest corn early in the day, then switch to beans as moisture drops. Instead of changing heads, we just change combines," he notes.



Air snorkels on either side of the Deere 95 eliminate plugging.

When harvesting corn, Foster keeps two trucks running. In wheat or beans, he uses three combines and three trucks.

"We combine until all trucks are full, then we all stop and go to the elevator. That way, we work together whether combining or hauling. If we have any trouble, we have help immediately available to fix it," says Foster.

"Actually, we have nowhere near what we would have invested in just one new combine, and we have a lot more utility," he points out.

Foster also has the tires to do the job. His two oldest combines have rice tires on year around. He also has rice tires (28.1 by 26) for the corn machine but puts them on only when needed.



Bumper empty weighs 110 lbs. and holds 110 lbs. of water.

SOLAR DISPOSAL USES THE SUN, MOISTURE TO DIGEST HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Backyard "Garbageater" Chews Up Organic Waste

If you have a conventional garbage disposal in your farm home, you're likely to end up one day unplugging chicken bones and egg shells from your septic system, says Jack Larson, manufacturer of a new backyard "Garbageater" that chews up household waste and gets rid of it — automatically.

The Garbageater consists of a bottomless container buried in the ground and covered by a black cover that looks like a miniature space capsule. Organic waste of any kind is thrown "as is" into the Garbageater, falling to the bottom of the tube in the ground. The black upper half of the Garbageater absorbs heat from the sun while the garbage absorbs moisture from the ground. The combination of heat and moisture starts the natural process of decomposition, eating up coffee grounds, egg shells, fruit rinds, vegetable peelings, meat and fish scraps, bones and anything else organic. Liquids produced by the decomposition seep away harmlessly into the ground.

"All that's left in the bottom after decomposition is a gray, ash-like material that makes good fertilizer for the garden," says Larson.

Any time the temperature inside the unit is 50° or above, bacterial action will be at work on the garbage. Larson says that there may be some garbage buildup in the winter in northern climates but that in most cases the units have enough storage space to handle the problem.

The Garbageater has no moving parts, and needs no electricity or plumbing. Larson says that if the cover is kept in place, there are no



Once installed, only the black upper half of the Garbageater remains above ground.

insect or odor problems with the airtight unit. Dogs and wild animals can't get into it when properly sealed.

The Garbageater comes in two sizes, a 50 gal. model which "processes" enough garbage to take care of an average size home and a 160 gal. commercial unit. The 50 gal. model requires digging a 24 by 24-in. hole for the in-ground tube.

The 50-gal. Garbageater sells for \$160 and the 160 gal. unit for \$300.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J & J Incorporated, Sanborn, Minn. 56083 (ph 507 648-3720).

ADDS WEIGHT FOR INCREASED TRACTION AND A SMOOTHER RIDE

New Water-Filled Bumper For Pickups

"With the new 'Ballast Bumper' on your pickup, you'll get a better ride when not carrying any cargo and improved traction in slippery conditions," says Willard Hanson, Elk River, Minn., designer of the just-introduced rear bumper that you can fill with water or other liquid for extra weight.

Made of 8 by 6 by 1/4 in. tubing, the truck bumper alone weighs 110 lbs. Filling it with water or other fluid, adds another 110 lbs. to the back of your truck. Hanson notes that in the winter you could add antifreeze, or put in calcium chloride, to prevent

freezing. If you want to remove the extra weight, just remove the drain plug and let the liquid drain out.

Hanson notes that the Ballast Bumper replaces the conventional bumper and can be adapted to most pickups. He adds that the bumper isn't baffled on the inside so, if it isn't completely filled, there will be some sloshing.

Sells for \$250.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ballast Bumper, 19 Cannon Drive, Elk River, Minn. 55330 (ph 612 441-5124).