

# Combine Converted To Ear Corn Picker

Gutting out a combine with his blowtorch left David Newbury with the perfect chassis for picking corn. With a little metal work and a three-row header, he was in business, clearing out end rows for his chopper.

"I don't have downed stalks at the end rows anymore," says Newbury. "Instead, I harvest the ears and store them with the silage. The cows eat them like candy, burrowing into the silage to get at them." Newbury had wanted to build a self-propelled ear corn picker for several years. When a cousin offered him a 1960's 55 Deere, Newbury got busy.

"The combine had been outside for about 10 years. He said I could have it if I could start it," he says. "I had to clean out the fuel lines and replace the battery, radiator, points and fuel pump. That was enough to get it running."

To get it home, Newbury also needed a new set of rear tires. He also found a quick-tach feeder housing that fit the old combine.

"I found a three-row corn head sitting in a fence row and mounted it to the feeder housing," says Newbury. "The hardest thing to find was an elevator."

Newbury wanted an old flat bottom grain or hay elevator to move the ears into a trailing wagon. Once he found one, he cut it down to about 20 ft. in length and gutted out the combine's threshing mechanism to make room for it.

"We slid the elevator in place and welded



on some tin to gather the ears as they came through the feeder housing and dropped onto the elevator," he says.

Newbury cut a hole in the top of the combine housing and braced it so the elevator could rest there at an angle above the towed wagon.

"It's high enough. It works with either a gravity box or a barge box with hoist," says Newbury.

To power the elevator, he replaced the original pto shaft with a longer shaft that extends through the combine wall. A drive pulley mounted to the shaft end is driven by the original grain tank unload belt drive.

"The feeder housing was the most ex-

pensive part of the whole venture," says Newbury. "I probably have \$1,000 in the whole rig."

The ear corn harvester has more than paid for itself. Newbury isn't wasting ears in the field, and his cows love the ears at the feed bunk. To store the ears, he simply spreads them on the floor of his temporary trench silo (two rows of big round bales). As the silage is packed on top of the ears, they ferment along with it.

"The whole ear gets really soft and palatable," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Newbury, 6701 Horse Prairie Rd., Sesser, Ill. 62884 (ph 618 625-6404).

## How To Make A Cheap Square Bale Feeder

Karoo Oakey in South Africa recently came up with a hay-saving square bale feeder. It's both cheap and quick to build, and Oakey shared it, complete with step by step photos and instructions, at the website, [www.instructables.com](http://www.instructables.com).

The feeder holds a single square bale on end and is made entirely out of scrap iron. Oakey says vehicle rims make an ideal base. The sides of the feeder consist of old "wind-pump rods," which are 39 in. long. He used four 3/5-in. dia. rods and eight 1/2-in. dia. rods, but says that thinner rods would also work. He spaced them 5.9 in. apart around the rim, after finding that any spacing greater than 6.3 in. allows the feed to start falling out too easily through the gaps.

Oakey initially spot-welded the rods onto the rim, just enough so that they were adjustable and not immobile.

He formed a support ring for the top of the feeder by placing the tip of a rod in a wheel rim's valve hole, holding the rim securely, and hammering the rod down while wrap-

ping it around the rim, then cutting the bent tip off later.

"It works good to bend a rod around the rim since that was already the right size," he explains.

He points out that a support ring half-way down the feeder is also essential.

Spot welding the top and middle support rings require either the use of magnets to hold everything in place, or a second pair of hands. Once everything's lined up, he welds everything permanently.

The last step is to add stabilizing "feet" made from scrap pipe. The pipe sections have to be slightly notched to fit under the rim's lip.

"When filling the feeders with hay, I've found that it's better not to remove the baling twine because then the sheep don't pull huge chunks out. There's also much less pushing and shoving, since they all know the bale will be there longer," he says. "There's still a bit of a mess, but it's far better than just chucking the bale on the ground."



Karoo Oakey can be contacted by email through the Instructables (website: <http://www.instructables.com/id/Bale-Feeders-for-stock-Cheap-Quick/>).