



## AGCO Fine-Tunes Baler For Biomass

When ethanol plants are finally ready to use crop residue instead of grain, AGCO Corp. intends to be ready to help farmers collect. Retrofitted Challenger LB34B balers pulled behind Challenger 680B combines were field tested this fall. The combines harvested grain normally, while the chaff and straw were baled up in 3 by 4-ft. square bales.

“Crop goes directly from the combine into the throat of the baler, never touching the ground,” says Dean Morrell, AGCO.

The only changes made to the combine was a hitch to connect and power the baler, which was modified to operate without a pickup unit. A funnel-type opening was fabricated to help move crop material into the bale chamber. The tongue also had to be modified to accommodate the wider throat opening.

“The existing straw chopper sends stalks, cobs, and husks 6 to 8 ft. through the air into the baler mouth,” says Morrell.

Ironically, the combine/baler combination may be of interest to crop and livestock producers, whether or not biomass demand for ethanol production develops. “We had two units running in Iowa this fall, and the customers really liked them,” says Morrell. “This machine makes lots better cattle feed versus chopping the stalks up and baling them as they normally would.”

Morrell says the company is continuing to test the equipment. Such R&D projects are not usually released to the public, but this is an unusual situation, he adds.

“We’re evaluating market interest,” says Morrell. “A lot depends on the biomass market and what it does.”

Morrell believes the system will be easily adapted to other sources of biomass such as cereal grains. AGCO has indicated that the modified large square baler is expected to be offered for all Class VIII combines from AGCO and other manufacturers.

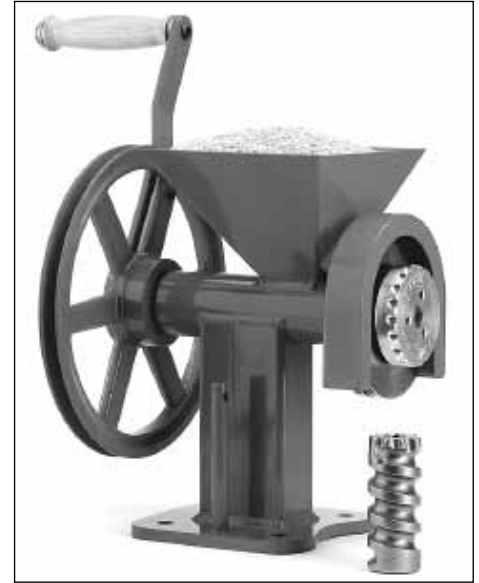
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AGCO, 4205 River Green Parkway, Duluth, Ga. 30096 (ph 770 813-9200; [www.agcocorp.com](http://www.agcocorp.com)).

## Machined-Steel Grain Mill

Bitterroot Tool & Machine manufactures each GrainMaker® mill in their Montana machine shop. The mill easily handles all types of grain and seeds, from tiny flax seeds to kernels of corn and legumes. The powder-coated finish and hardened steel burrs clean up easily. The mill stands 12-in. tall from the base to the top of the hopper and weighs 23 lbs. It must be bolted or clamped to a surface before use.

Each mill is handcrafted of welded steel, they are not cast. Every part of the mill, including the body, handle, hopper, stainless steel GrainBreaker auger, and high-quality alloy grinding burrs, are made on-site. The exclusive grinding burrs – one stationary and one rotating – are owner Randy Jones’ unique design. They are individually machined using a process that has enabled the GrainMaker to proudly include them as part of the mill’s lifetime warranty. The GrainMaker has sealed bearings for smooth, maintenance-free operation, an adjustable ‘click and lock’ control knob for coarse to fine grinding, and an extended handle for better leverage. Every GrainMaker mill includes both the GrainBreaker auger and the coil auger.

Turning the mill by hand, it takes about 4 min. to hand grind a 4-cup hopper full of wheat. New in 2010, a bicycle conversion kit is available to power your mill with a standard 26-in. bicycle, or order a custom Bodine electric motor that slides directly on the shaft without bulky guards, pulleys or belts.



**Solid steel GrainMaker is built for heavy use.**

Owners Randy and Bonnie Jones’ desire is to provide heirloom quality mills. This is reflected in their commitment to working directly with their customers and providing a full lifetime warranty and a 30-day satisfaction guarantee.

You can learn more and order online at [www.grainmaker.com](http://www.grainmaker.com).

Or contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bitterroot Tool & Machine, PO Box 130, Stevensville, MT 59870 (call toll-free 855-777-7096 or email [sales@grainmaker.com](mailto:sales@grainmaker.com)).

**Reader Inquiry No. 70**

## They Specialize In Parts For Skid Loaders

If you need parts for a skid steer loader, there’s a good chance GD Equipment, Shippensburg, Penn., has what you need.

Owner Aaron Shirk has been buying and selling used skid steers for 20 years. “When we get one in that we can’t repair, we part it out, (over 500 loaders). We also have new and reconditioned parts and we’ve become specialists at rebuilding hydrostatic transmissions for all types of skid steer loaders and even other equipment, like IH farm tractor hydro’s and John Deere crawler hydro’s— everything from lawn mowers to bulldozers.

“Our hydro rebuilding includes lapping, grinding and honing. We can bench test most pumps, motors, control valves and

hydraulic cylinders with a capability of up to 400 hp and up to 7000 psi. We also rebuild hydraulic cylinders.”

New, used, aftermarket and rebuilt parts are available for Kubota, Yanmar, New Holland, Ford, Mitsubishi, Cat, Wisconsin, and Perkins engines. Kubota, Satoh, and Mitsubishi tractor parts are also available as are hydrostatic parts for Sunstrand, Cessna, Eaton, Danfoss, Poclair, and Rexroth.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GD Equipment, 414 Rowe Road, Shippensburg, Penn. 17257 (ph 717 530-0170; fax: 717 530-7798). Business hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday thru Friday.

**Reader Inquiry No. 71**