Add-on kit lets you lower the bin auger on a Deere 9600 Series combine by simply pressing a switch.

Power Kit Drops Bin Auger Down

Deere 9600 Series combine bin augers stick up just high enough that they won't fit through 14-ft. machine shed doorways. Though they can be lowered manually, it's a hassle, especially at the end of a long day. Les Miller and his sons Robert and Tim came up with an answer, and now they are selling their solution, the Han-Dee Auger Power Unit.

"All we have to do is press the switch to lower the auger below the hopper extension top level or raise it back up," explains Miller.

Miller's kit includes a control box that sticks to the inside window on the combine cab, a power cord to plug into the utility line, and a 12-volt actuator that raises and lowers the grain auger.

"We include all the wiring needed with the instructions for installation," he says. "We also have a separator safety switch that keeps the grain separator from coming on if the auger is down."

Miller added the safety switch after a neighbor tore up his combine twice by turning on the separator with the auger down.

"When the auger plugs up, it can take out the drive system on the elevator," explains Miller. "The drive doesn't have a slip clutch, and it tears up the belt."

He recommends installing the safety switch even without installing the auger power unit. In fact, he won't sell the auger kit without the safety switch.

Suggested retail price for the Han-Dee Auger Power Unit (including separator safety switch) is $1,365.75 plus shipping. The price for the Separator Safety Switch Kit alone is $290.

"Our kit fits Deere 9600 Series combines and can also be adapted to other combines," says Miller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LDM Innovations, 2111 W. Perry Rd., Ligonier, Ind. 46767 (ph 260 894-3813; les@ligtel.com).

On Demand Front-Wheel Drive

You can add front-wheel drive to a straight truck with this replacement front axle drive system. The steerable hydraulic drive axle offers all-wheel drive on demand.

"We are getting a very favorable reaction from sugar beet producers and custom forage harvesters," says Darren Foster, Tuthill Drive Systems. "Feedlots like putting it on grinder/mixer feed trucks, and fertilizer dealers are putting it on floater trucks. Dairy haulers tell us it lets them pick up milk no matter what the weather."

The EZ Trac axle is rated for up to 20,000 lbs. and can go on trucks as low as 10,000 lbs. It's a standard heavy-duty Class 5, 6, 7 or 8-style axle with brake ratings to match.

Foster notes that lots of OEM's don't offer front-wheel drive on heavy-duty straight trucks, and those who do offer it at the end of the line, not as a regular line installation. Foster says the EZ Trac is better than an OEM mechanical 4-WD because the drive units are on the wheel hubs so it has less physical impact on the front end.

"It weighs less than a mechanical front-wheel drive, which equates to an estimated 10 percent fuel savings, has a lower center of gravity, and maintains ride quality and turning radius," says Foster. "It also maintains ground clearance and automatically disengages above 20 mph, re-engaging when rear wheels lose traction. It works like 4-WD off-road, but feels like 2-WD on the road."

Replacement front axle drive system lets you add front-wheel drive to straight trucks.

The EZ Trac axle assembly includes wheel speed sensors and drive units, control system and a pto-powered hydraulic system. Speed sensors are also installed on the rear drive. An on/off control is installed in the cab.

"We have installation centers across the U.S. and Canada," says Foster. "We sell through them."

Price for the unit varies, but Foster suggests a fully installed unit will run from $30,000 to $35,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tuthill Drive Systems, P.O. Box 600, Brookston, Ind. 47923 (ph 219 279-2801; DFoster@tuthill.com; www.tuthill.com).

George Edmond built this sand shooter to bed cow stalls with sand. The self-propelled cart can empty a 7 cu. yd. box of bedding sand in just 5 min., shooting the sand up to 10 ft. out from the cart.

Sand Shooter Speeds Bedding

If you need a fast way to bed cow stalls with sand, George Edmond has the rig for you. The Hillsdale, Wis., welder made a sand shooter for a neighboring dairyman. The self-propelled cart can empty a 7 cu. yd. box of bedding sand in 5 min., shooting the sand up to 10 ft. out from the cart.

"The dairyman has between 1,200 and 1,500 cows in the milking herd. He needed something that would allow his workers to bed between 200 and 250 stalls per hour while the cows are being milked," says Edmond.

The customer had specified heavy-duty components that could be easily serviced with parts found locally. Edmonds got most of what he needed from a 915 IH combine and a Chief lime spreader truck.

"We tore everything apart and then built it back up from scratch," says Edmond.

The entire unit is about 25 ft. long, and 7 ft. wide and 7 1/2 ft. high. Height was predetermined by a need to get under some rafters to be reloaded. Edmond used the truck frame and a 414 IH engine out of the combine along with its hydrostatic drive.

"The 414 is a very common IH engine, so we knew getting parts wouldn't be a problem," says Edmond. "We mounted it crossways on the frame with four bolts to secure it. If there's a problem we just remove the bolts, disconnect 6 lines and pull the engine out."

Front and rear axles also came from the combine. However, to keep the height down, semi wheels were used instead of the taller combine wheels. Edmond was surprised that it was easy to find wheels that matched the combine hub pattern exactly.

The box was from the lime truck, but Edmond fabricated the conveyor with rubber belting and 2-in. flighting. After only 130 loads, the cross conveyor had to be rebuilt due to the abrasive sand.

"We used high-density polyethylene instead of the steel, and it has worked well," says Edmond, "as has the orbital motor that direct drives the conveyor."

The 40-gal. fuel tank was cut in half and mounted to the side of the unit. Where possible, cables, hydraulic hoses and other parts from the combine were used.

"The sand shooter has worked out well," says Edmond. "My customer was happy with it. A commercial unit is available for around $120,000, but we built this for around $25,000."

Edmonds says he's interested in building more sand shooters for anyone who needs one.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Edmond, 1363 7th Ave., Hillsdale, Wis. 54733 (ph 715 790-1964).

Ground-driven sweeper uses a geared-down kick broom to brush garbage and trash ahead of it.

Ground-Driven Sweeper Handles Heavy Trash

Powered sweepers are easy to operate, but can be difficult to get into tight, closed areas. The Waste Handler, developed by Andrew Pryor, combines the best of manual push brooms and powered sweepers. It's powerful enough to handle chunks of concrete and metal.

"It uses a ground-driven, gear reduced kick broom with a patented 2:1 gear system that increases speed and power," explains Pryor. "The way it brushes garbage and industrial trash ahead of it, it gives the illusion that it's picking it up. There's no comparison over manual push brooms."

Pryor says the Waste Handler is ideal for use in and around buildings where gas powered sweepers can't be used. The 3-ft. wide brush can handle gravel, metal and glass as easily as it does paper and leaves.

A key element of the Waste Handler is its balanced design. "It weighs 80 lbs., but you can pull it backwards with one finger," says Pryor. "It's very maneuverable."

Pryor suggests the Waste Handler should sell for less than $485. Currently, he is seeking a buyer for the patent pending product, as well as all plans and technical support. Interested parties can request a DVD with video and detailed information.

Unit is powerful enough to handle chunks of concrete and metal.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andrew Pryor, 709 Lexington Cross Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 (ph 702 241-4699; andrew@adpwastehandler.com).