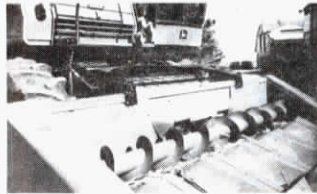


Ear Saver in operating position over the feeder house.



Unit folds back for easy access.

“Ear Saver” For Deere Combines

“Everybody knows about the problem but nobody’s ever done anything about it,” says the manufacturer of a new “Ear Saver” for Deere combines that reportedly saves \$1 or more per acre by saving ears that are thrown out of the combine feederhouse.

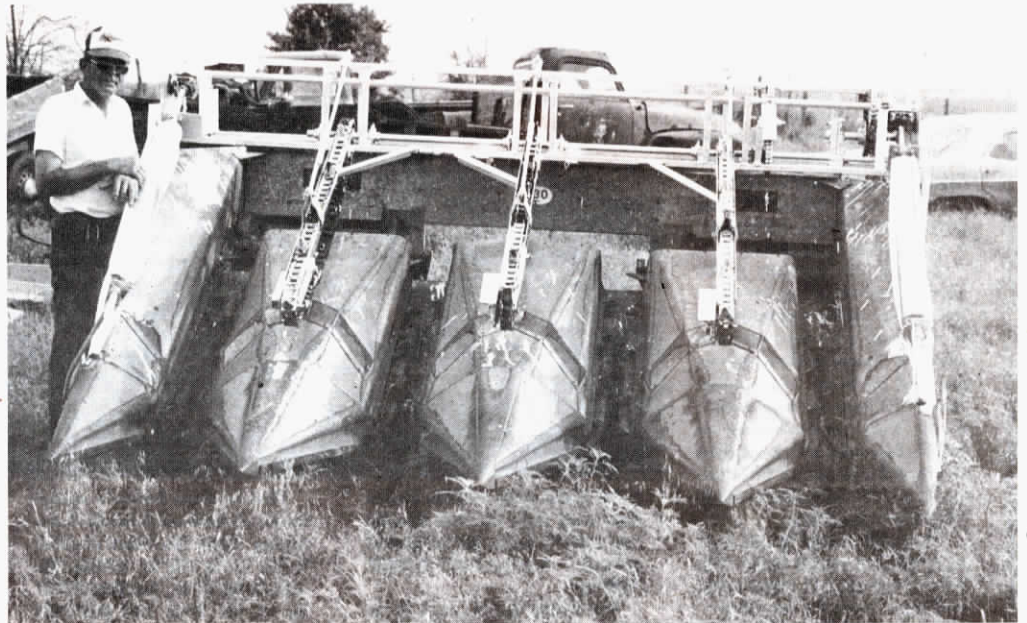
Developed by the Farmer’s Factory, a recently-launched manufacturing firm in Lee, Ill., the Ear Saver is simply a fold-up wire cage that covers the feederhouse and feeder auger when the combine is in the field. “Ears that might otherwise be thrown back on the ground under certain conditions — such as heavy down corn or when combining on slopes — are held in by the cage. For maintenance, the Ear Saver folds up quickly out of the way,” says Phil Foster, Farmer’s Factory president.

Foster notes that, besides saving corn, the Ear Saver also acts as a safety shield to farmers when working on other parts of the corn header.

The Ear Saver mounts in minutes with just 8 bolts and one size fits all 4, 6 and 8-row Deere cornheads. It will soon be available for other makes of combines.

Sells for \$204.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farmers Factory Company, Box 122, Lee, Ill. 60530 (ph 815 824-2153).



Atkinson picked up 90% of a downed crop with attachment he built in his farm shop.

ROLLER CONES SALVAGE DOWNED STALKS

Farmer’s Invention Saves Corn Crop

By Frank J. Buchman

“That ‘dadgum’ thing is a dream.” Cecil Atkinson of White City, Kan., is describing the special corn pick-up attachment he designed and recently received patent approval for.

It was the fall of 1980 when the Morris County dairyman was attempting to pick a field of down corn that he came up with the design.

“The corn was down bad and it was just bunching up over the sides of the headers and falling back to the ground,” says Atkinson, recalling the problem that prompted him to design the corn “pickerupper”.

“We were taking turns pushing the stalks in by hand with a hoe. That was a lot of work and it was dangerous too,” Mrs. (Lolita) Atkinson noted.

“The field was going to yield about 180 bushels an acre and we weren’t going to salvage any the way we were doing it. I decided there had to be a way to get the corn,” Atkinson recalled.

So he went to town and bought some iron and spent two weeks in the shop cutting and welding to finally come up with a pick-up apparatus.

“He used a lot of chains and sprockets from an old field cutter and other

things we had around here,” Mrs. Atkinson said.

“When Cecil first took the new attachments to the field, he went by himself. He didn’t want anybody else to be there if it didn’t work,” the Mrs. continued.

“But it worked beyond my expectations,” Atkinson said. “It picked up 90% of the crop.”

The field yielded 160 bushels an acre with the new attachment and the couple picked up an additional 15 bushels an acre by hand.

“The other way we wouldn’t have gotten hardly any in comparison and it would have been a lot more work,” Atkinson said.

Made to fit four headers on his Gleaner combine, the pick-up attachment includes forward, traveling arms with hook links plus roller cones on each end head. It is chain driven from the main drive shaft.

“The arms are flexible so they will adjust with the crop and the roller cones keep the stalks coming into the heads and not dragging off to the ground,” Atkinson explained.

“This is strictly a corn head. There is little similarity with milo pick-up attachments.”

A year ago last fall, the corn was

standing good, but an occasional stalk would drop by the heads. “I decided to hook the pick-ups back to the head and that lowered the loss. I’d say it cut the loss down another 50% on good corn,” Atkinson explained.

After encouragement from his wife’s cousin, Howard Knott, the designer decided to apply for a patent. He took pictures and had a patent attorney work up blueprints.

The patent was approved recently and now Atkinson hopes to find a manufacturer to produce them commercially.

“The design could be adapted to any brand combine. In mass production, they could build one of these pretty fast,” Atkinson said. “I’m interested in seeing it on the market so other farmers can use it. There’s no use having a crop of corn go down and have no way to harvest it.”

“This pick-up attachment can mean the difference between nothing and 90% of the corn crop. A man could pay for one harvesting 35-40 acres of down corn,” he notes.

(Reprinted with permission from Grass and Grain, Manhattan, Kan.)

SELF-EMPTYING, IT DIGS 8 IN. DEEP

Probe Simplifies Soil Sampling

If you do a lot of soil sampling, you’ll like the simplicity and convenience of a new hand-held probe from Fox Marketing, Bloomington, Ill.

The new-style sampler, which takes a 1 in. dia. core 8 in. deep, is

operated by foot pressure on a step at the side of the unit. A push-rod inside the handle, coupled with the hinged probe, makes for quick, easy removal of the dirt sample.

It’s made of case hardened

chromed steel and sells for \$46, plus \$3.50 for shipping.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fox Marketing, 611 N. McLean, Bloomington, Ill. 61701 (ph 309 828-8392).

