



"Fast Fill" For Planters, Drills

Wrestling seed sacks at planting time is hard work and takes a lot of time. But Cliff Etheredge, Roscoe, Texas, found an easier way. Now one man can fill the 11 bu. hopper on each of his IH Cyclo planters in 2½ minutes — without lifting a seed sack.

Etheredge took two supplement bins salvaged from a feedlot, plus a short, used bucket elevator and mounted them on a 4-wheel trailer. The rear axle was widened to provide better stability. The elevator, with 6 in. buckets, is driven by a hydraulic motor running off the tractor hydraulic system. The bins are covered, with an 18 in. square hatch in each one for filling and access to the inside of the bin.

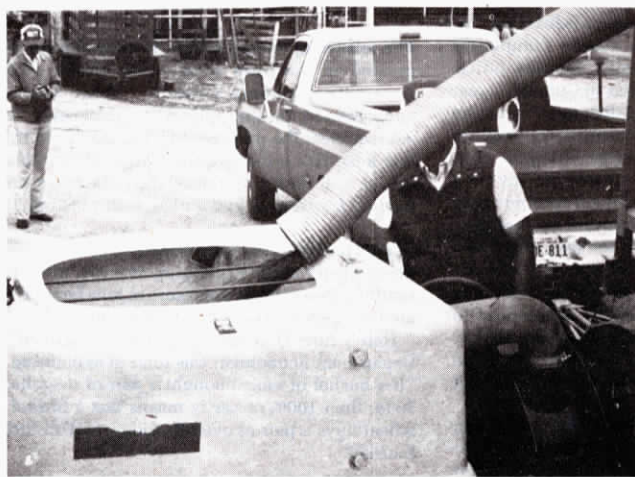
Etheredge, who plants only cotton, has delinted seed delivered to his farm where it's stored in an old country elevator. When he's ready to plant, the trailer is loaded with seed. By using two bins he can plant two varieties at the same time, and usually keeps three Cyclo planters in the field together.

The two bins hold 4800 lbs. of cotton seed, enough for 400 acres or a full day's planting with three planters.

Etheredge admits there is some problem with trailer stability when both bins are filled. He says overall height of about 16 ft. is too much for highway bridges, etc. Therefore, he plans to modify the frame and elevator to lower the height by 2 or 3 ft.

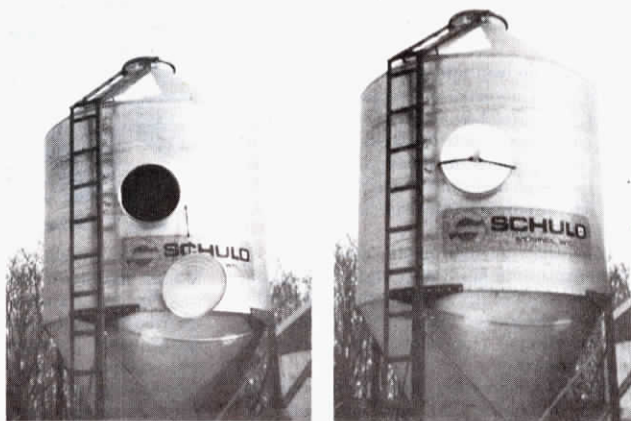
Why didn't he just buy an auger wagon to handle the seed? "Cotton specialists tell me an auger damages the seed coat on cotton and this can reduce or prevent germination. They figure 10% of the seed is damaged every time it passes through an auger. Augers are real hard on soybean seed, too. But a bucket elevator handles seed about as gently as any method you'll find. So, this system is really better for the seed," Etheredge points out.

Etheredge said assembly of the trailer was no problem. The tanks and elevator were located by a friend who put the whole thing together in a short time.



Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor



Half-Way Cover For Bulk Bins

"My grinder wouldn't reach the top of the bin," says Craig Wegner, Hawarden, Iowa, who made a half-way cover out of a garbage can and fastened it to the side of his bulk feed bin.

Wegner cut off the top several inches of a garbage can, leaving the handles, and then cut a hole in the side of the bin. Slits left in

the can were bent back and fastened to the bin with sheet metal screws.

"I caulked the crack around the can, and keep the cover on with rubber straps through the handles. It's weathertight and keeps feed in when the bin is full," says Wegner.