

Biggest Grain Moving System We've Ever Seen

We talked to the manufacturer of this big grain moving system at the recent Nebraska Power Farming Show. The Swift "Gobbler" mounts on a Uni Harvester and is designed to unload big grain piles at high speed into semi trucks. It's used mostly by big grain elevators and terminals.

The "Gobbler" has its own self-contained hydraulic system that's belt-driven off the UniHarvester. It features a 12-ft. wide detachable auger header that rides on big steel caster wheels, and a 50-ft. long by 3-ft. wide high speed conveyor belt equipped with a hydraulic-controlled rotating chute.

All operations are hydraulically controlled from the Uni Harvester cab. The truck driver simply backs in under the conveyor and uses a CB radio to communicate with the UniHarvester operator.

The auger header rides on heavy duty caster wheels and delivers the grain to four 2-ft. wide, rubber-covered paddles at the center that rotate like a paddleboat. A 4-ft. long by 2 1/2-ft. wide accelerator located behind the header contains a second set of paddles and delivers grain onto the belt. A hydraulically-raised "fence" on front of the header is designed to protect aeration tubes inside the pile, and there's a clod buster behind the auger header.

"We have several of these units in use across the U.S.," says Doug Buchanan, Swift Mfg. Co., Clara City, Minn. "Some of the grain piles contain 2 million bu. or more. Sometimes if the elevator's wet bin can't keep up at harvest they'll stack the grain outside and later load it into semis and dry it again.

"The Gobbler can move 20,000 bu./hr. and load a 1,000-bu. semi truck in just over 3 min. It can move grain twice as fast as 2 wheel loaders but uses only half as much fuel and requires only one operator. The conveyor and header auger bolt together and can be loaded on a double drop deck trailer for transport."

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Swift "Gobbler" mounts on a Uni Harvester and is designed to load 20,000 bu. of grain per hour. It features a 12-ft. wide detachable auger header and a 50-ft. long by 3-ft. wide high speed conveyor belt.



Revolutionary Shovel Design Makes Digging Easier

You can do a lot more work with less back strain using these new ergonomic shovels from inventor Stephen Walden.

The 25-year-old entrepreneur has won awards for his ergonomic designs and recently formed a company, Bosse Tools, to distribute them. So far, he has designed an ergonomic snow shovel, flat head shovel, and digging spade.

"I grew up around farming; years of using shovels, rakes, brooms, and pitchforks led me to believe these tools could use some serious innovation," says Walden. "Our [Bosse] tools are designed to reduce stress on your back and arms while providing more leverage for digging. This ultimately increases efficiency in the workplace. They let you work in a more upright position and provide better posture."

The genius is in the handle. Bosse tools are equipped with a rotating, spring-loaded center handle that turns 360 degrees. The perimeter of the ring has a series of notches in it, permitting 16 different locking positions. By depressing a button, you can rotate the handle until it clicks into place at the desired notch.

The ability to hold the handle at a different angle may seem like a small adjustment, but it makes a big difference in reducing the strain on your back, says Walden. Using Arizona State University's (ASU) Kinesiology Department within the College of Health Solutions, Bosse Tools has proven the efficacy of their design. "I think the take-home message was that when participants used the Bosse shovel, there was substantially less muscle activity (in) the lower back," says Dr. Erin Harper of ASU. Rotating the handle lets you pick up the material and dump it in the same motion. "For example, you can set the handle to scoop dirt and dump it into a wheelbarrow in one fell swoop, or pitch the snow out of your driveway much more easily."



Rotating, spring-loaded center handle turns 360 degrees, allowing you to adjust the handle to the most desirable position for ease of use.

Walden's tools are available now for purchase and he anticipates distribution in early February. The tools are priced in the upper range of the current shovels and spades on market.

"We plan to offer everything from specialized construction tools to gardening equipment, all benefitting from our ergonomic designs. Whether you are a construction worker, farmer, gardener, or 'do it yourself' enthusiast, this is a tool you need to have!"

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