

Made It Myself

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Hopper Aids Auger Cleanup

Richard Foisy has found a fast, easy way to get all the grain from around his big auger into the bin.

He simply added a small hopper that opens into the auger tube. Now, all he has to do is scoop up the grain and drop it into the small hopper, and it's in the bin.

Normally, getting the last couple of bushels up a big auger is next to impossible, the Cut Knife, Sask. seed grower points out.

"The exposed flighting in the hopper sprays the grain around and onto the ground when just a little bit of grain is poured into it.

To make his cleanup easy, Foisy made a small addition to his 10-in. grain auger. He welded a smaller hopper onto the auger tubing about 5 ft. from the bottom. The small hopper opens directly onto the auger flighting.

"I placed it so I can easily empty a bucket or a scoopful of grain into it. The auger carries the grain to the top of the bin without any of it slipping back into the main hopper to be battered about and out by the exposed flighting.

"With the smaller, slower speed augers, there is no problem with cleanup, as the small auger and opening will take nearly all the seed in the hopper and not bat it about."

When Foisy's auger is running full, a trap door is closed over the small hopper opening. A wing nut securely fastens the door. Without the door the grain bubbles out over the hopper.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Foisy, Box 464, Cut Knife, Sask. SOM ONO (ph 306 398-4750).

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Row Shut-Off For IH Planters

"I came up with this idea because we have a lot of point rows due to odd-shaped fields and a number of fields planted on the contour. With seed corn costs so high, we can't justify double-planting on end rows," says Garth W. Griffin, New Hampton, Iowa, who devised a way to shut down rows on his International air planter.

The electrically-operated point row controls shut off either side of the planter by shutting off the wheels on the seed drums. Griffin used two salvaged electric window motors attached to cables to shut down the rows and release them. The cables simply attach

to the shut-off controls already on IH air planters. The advantage is that you don't have to get down off the tractor to shut rows down.

"The automotive electric window motors cost about \$10 apiece at a local salvage yard. You should make sure they're reversible so you can release the wheels back on to the seed drum. I bought some miscellaneous pieces of scrap iron for about \$2.00 to make brackets to mount the motors. Two ½-in. pulleys cost about \$4.00 each and some machine work on the pulleys to fit them to the motors cost about \$10. Then I bought about \$10 worth of electric wire

Dump Pit For Ear Corn, Silage

"Anyone who's ever handled seed corn on the ear knows that these high moisture rubbins are a lot more difficult to handle than crib corn," says Gail Ohlson, Ohio, Ill., who had a hauling bottleneck on his farm at harvest time until he came up with a fast system to dump high moisture ear corn, silage and other hard-to-handle grains.

Ohlson, who grows seed for Pioneer, harvests ear-corn at 30 to 35% moisture and brings it back to his farm yard in dump wagons for loading into semis. In the past he used a single, conventional flight elevator with a conventional hopper.

"It was very difficult to dump slow enough into the hopper to keep it full without overflowing. Most people use a pitchfork or other tool to rake the ears out but this method is not only slow and hard work, it can damage the corn. So we came up with this system for trouble-free unloading," says Ohlson.

He buried a conventional dry fertilizer spreader in the ground with one end of it cut off. Ears are dumped into the 30 to 40 bu. hopper and carried out the open

end of it where they drop into a large hopper at the end of a double-wide set of elevators. The twin elevators carry the ears up and dump them into a waiting semi to be hauled away for drying.

The fertilizer spreader hopper is driven by a hydraulic orbit motor and the elevators by a pto shaft that's tractor-driven. A jackshaft, that runs off the elevator, drives a small hydraulic pump that hooks up to the dump wagon waiting at the unloading pit. This lets the operator stand by the elevators and gradually dump the unloading wagon into the buried hopper.

"It causes less damage to the seed and you can keep a steady flow dumping out of the wagon. It has eliminated our harvest bottleneck and keeps our two 4-row Uni-Pickers going full speed," notes Ohlson.

He notes that his idea could also be used for faster, easier dumping of silage and other grains where needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gail Ohlson, Rt. 1, Ohio, Ill. 61349 (ph 815 875-1593).



and salvaged some ½-in. cable from a friend. The total cost to me was about \$70 and it took 3 to 4 hours of labor.

"This past spring was the first season we've used it and it worked fine, with a few minor adjustments. As far as I know, there is no point row shut-off on the market for IH planters. This idea will work on any International air planter. We plan to contact manufacturers about the idea," says Griffin.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garth W. Griffin, Rt. 1, Box 282, New Hampton, Iowa 50659 (ph 515 394-3897).

