



Gordon Shrader's center pivot passes over this 2-story house, climbing two man-made dirt ramps as it makes a circle around the field.

EARTH RAMPS CARRY PIVOT OVER HOUSE

Center Pivot "Hops" Over Old Farmhouse

By Glen Bowker

Center pivots are a common sight in Northeast Nebraska but no other system has attracted as much attention as the one owned by Ewing, Neb., farmer Gordon Shrader. It passes over a 2-story, 8-room house, climbing two man-made dirt ramps as it makes its circle around the field.

"We've had a lot of spectator traffic since the project started last spring," Shrader says. The pivot is located in a field 4 miles south and 1 1/2 miles west of Orchard, Neb.

When the system's towers approach the house, they climb the 20 ft. high earthen ramps which are located on both sides of the old house, enabling the pivot mainline to clear the roof. The descent is then made to the other side.

People can't believe their eyes when they first see the bizarre setup but there's a practical explanation for the unusual house-hopping pivot.

Shrader says he leased the land for a 10-year period. The landowners agreed to removal of the outbuildings on the farmstead, but for sentimental reasons, did not want the farm home to be torn down. The house is occasionally used as a hunting lodge by the owners.

The house is not worth the expense of moving it from the pivot's path and to put in an auto reversing system for the pivot would have been cost-prohibitive.

One complicating factor is that the local power company gives Shrader a reduced rate for running the pivot only 12 hrs. a day. Reversing the pivot would require 18 hrs.



Pivot goes over house with sprinklers on.

"I'd have to go on full time electric power then and that would be more expensive," he says.

Most of the farm outbuildings were torn down. The unburned rubble was used as a basis for the dirt ramps which were formed with a bulldozer by a local contractor. The tracks up each ramp are covered with a heavy layer of rock to provide traction and to prevent erosion. The ramp sides are covered with grass. Shrader says building the ramps didn't cost much more than it would have cost to dig a hole to bury the rubble from the buildings.

The pivot climbs the grade with no problem, passing over house with sprinklers on.

Shrader, who lives across the road from the old house, farms 3,680 acres. His operation includes 19 center pivots.

PULLS A FLOAT AND BLOWS BUBBLES AT THE SAME TIME

Parade-Goers Love His "Bathtub Car"

"Parade goers get a big kick out of it," says Rick Clow, Princeton, Minn., about his "bathtub car" which he rides shirtless in local parades. The antique cast iron clawfoot tub pulls a float and blows bubbles "on the go".

Clow bolted the rear axle from a Dodge Colt to the tub's drainhole and installed 13-in. car tires in back and swivel wheels from a riding lawn mower in front. A 9 hp Briggs

& Stratton engine, removed from a grain auger, mounts on an angle iron framework mounted on one side of the axle, and a jackshaft equipped with a reduction pulley is mounted on the other side. Clow steers the bathtub with a hand brake on each wheel. A ball hitch mounts on the back.

"It's really fun to drive," says Clow. "I use a thumb throttle on one of the brake levers to slow the tub way down, then I use

LETS TWO PEOPLE HUSK AND "DE-SILK" 50 DOZ. EARS PER HOUR

Air Gun Corn Silker

"We've been using this method for about 20 years. It lets two people process about 50 dozen ears of sweet corn per hour," says W.G. Carpenter, Durham, N. C., who uses an air gun to "de-silk" sweet corn.

"We use about 90 lbs. pressure. Over 100 lbs. will burst the kernels. You hold the ears in your left hand with the top of the ear pointing to you. Take the air gun in your right hand and blow from the top of the ear to the bottom of ear. Silks come out clean and quick from down between the kernels. You roll the ears over as you blow them off. One person shucking and one person silking makes a fast team but you should only keep about 3 or 4 ears on the table between shucking and silking because if the silks dry out they are much harder to remove.

"It takes a little practice to learn the best way to operate but once you've done it you won't want to do it any other way."



W.G. Carpenter uses an air gun to "de-silk" sweet corn and says it works great.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, W.G. Carpenter, 2917 Redwood Rd., Durham, N. C. 27704.



Rick Clow built this "bathtub car" which he rides shirtless in parades.

the brake lever to spin it around on a dime. When I rev up the throttle again it takes off by itself. I keep a pail full of soapy water inside the tub and attach one end of a hose to a nipple on the exhaust pipe to blow bubbles." A sign on one side of the tub reads

"Princeton: Home of Good Clean Fun. Help Save Our Rural Water - Bathe With A Friend".

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