

Reader Letters

We are hanging your "Crop Drying Furnace Burns Corn Stalks" article, from the cover of the last issue, on our wall. We have arrived at a time in history when we must look for alternative ways of drying the commodities we raise. It would be my opinion that if we can generate heat from by-products that we produce on the farm, this would be a practical thing to do. It would be to our advantage, regardless of future drying systems, to explore burning stalks and utilize them if possible. Thank you for sending us this information. We look forward to reading more about stalk-fueled drying in future issues.

Oliver Carlson
Algona, Iowa

In your last issue (Vol. 3, No. 1) you published my Best and Worst buys. I evidently made a mistake and gave the wrong model number for the grinder mixer. I said it was a Farmhand 830 when it should have been a model 835. You have a great magazine and I look forward to every issue.

Darrell Jensen
Hamlin, Iowa

I have enjoyed your magazine for almost one year. FARM SHOW is innovative and a real plus for farmers who enjoy tinkering with their own ideas.

Duane Hund
Paxico, Kan.

We are in dire need of a new machine to dig and separate the tubers and roots of Jerusalem artichokes. Must be

a machine to do the work on an economical basis. If any FARM SHOW readers know of such a machine, we'd like to hear from them.

Jesse Sparks
5378 Hiway 2 East
Columbia Falls, Mt. 59912

Out here in the west, we get farm publications geared to the midwest (corn, whatever that is, and other such crops) but the new products you have in your publication have been of great interest.

Ray Miller
Cheney, Wash.

I have received FARM SHOW now for over one year and enjoy it very much. I've sent in a list of people who I think will enjoy and benefit from this fine magazine.

Albert Remme
Dennison, Minn.

Don't Miss A Single Issue

Many new subscribers have asked if they can obtain back issues of FARM SHOW. The answer is yes.

We have a limited supply and are offering them on a first come, first served basis. Complete sets of all six FARM SHOW issues published in 1978 are currently available, plus the last four issues published in 1977. We no longer have extra copies of our first two issues for 1977 (Vol. 1, No. 1, and Vol. 1, No. 2).

Send your check for \$1 per copy to: BACK ISSUES, FARM SHOW Magazine, 8500 210 St., Johnson Bldg., Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Make your check payable to "FARM SHOW".

My sons and I enjoy FARM SHOW, especially the Best and Worst Buys section. We, too, have some of the equipment talked about but find that it sure does make a difference who your dealer is, and how you take care of it, although there are some real lemons in all makes of machinery.

In the last issue, you featured a wood splitter that also crushed cans. Thanks for a good idea.

Carl Lovelady
Corvallis, Ore.

I am a north-central Illinois corn and hog farmer who has just spent 1 1/2 hours moving over 300 bushels of wet corn from one side of a 30' grain bin to the other with a scoop shovel. This wet corn is very difficult to scoop and it usually is moved in high temperature, high humidity conditions which makes it doubly disagreeable.

Another farmer friend of mine and I were talking recently and both of us agreed that someone should invent an "electric scoop shovel." I almost designed my own last season. I am absolutely convinced there is a good market for such an item. There is a considerable waste of energy in a great many drying bins because of uneven surfaces which cause the warm air to seek the path of least resistance and result in uneven drying. Many grain spreaders in use today do not do a good job, resulting in an uneven surface.

In my own case, it is not a matter of the grain spreader doing a poor job. I have a David Mfg. spreader which has proven to be one of the best designs. My problem is that my Shivers continuous bin drier auger takes more corn off of one side of the bin than the other.

I have two centrifugal driers on the bin located 90° from each other in a 30' bin. The side of the bin opposite the driers gets dry sooner, evidently because of more air flow. I cannot relocate the driers. I have installed diverters in the fan transitions in an attempt to direct more air flow to the near side of the bin. This has not been very successful. My friend has only one dryer on his bin and he also has to do a lot of shoveling.

The use of multiple-auger stirring devices in bins helped alleviate the problem of an uneven surface in many bins as they provided some leveling action. I am convinced, however, that bottom unloading continuous bin driers, such as those manufactured by David and Sukup, will become more and more common. Stirring devices normally are not used with this type drying. Also, there is a move towards larger bins and this makes manual leveling a much greater job.

I picture something in the order of a lawn mower or snow blower on skis to push over the surface of the corn. The speed of the throwing mechanism would have to be limited so that the corn wouldn't be damaged too much. Possibly an 1140 R.P.M. motor, or a gear motor, could be used. The unit should be light enough to be easily handled and then hung up inside the bin when not in use. An extension cord reel could be used inside the bin to supply the power.

I am also a grain bin and auger dealer. I would do my best to promote such a device in this area. I would be glad to assist anyone in designing such a unit.

Joe Stetson
Stetson Feed Processing Service
Neponset, Ill.

Do Your Friends a Favor!

Put them in touch with FARM SHOW. Just send us the names of neighbors, friends or relatives you think would like to see this new magazine regularly. We'll send them a free copy. We'll also tell them, with your permission, that it was you who suggested we send them the free copy.

Yes, it's okay to tell each name below that: "_____ asked us to send _____ (Print in your name) you this free copy of FARM SHOW magazine."

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