



### “Combine Loader”

Grayville, Ill. farmer Dean Baker didn't like the balance and traction of conventional loaders so he took an old Case 600 combine and a commercial loader to make a rig to fit his specifications.

Baker stripped the combine of its threshing equipment and left the rest intact. He then added a Dunham-Lehr loader bucket to the base. He notes that the loader fit the combine's new 4 by 7-in. steel beam frame perfectly.

“The loader has terrific traction and it can lift the bucket just as high as a tractor. The

loader's powered off the combine's hydraulic system although I should add another pump for faster action,” says Baker.

“The Case combine worked well because it's small but, I think most combines could be converted over. Hydrostats would work especially well because you have just one lever to steer them with and no transmission problems.”

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### Tractor Loader Push Harrow

Bruce McBlain has found a way to prepare a seedbed right ahead of his seed drill.

McBlain calls his invention a “push harrow” and it consists of a conventional harrow suspended by short chains from a front-end loader. He simply made a frame that evenly pulls the harrow at about the same width as the drill he pulls behind.

“It levels, incorporates, breaks up lumps, and provides a good driving guide pulled



ahead of a Tye drill for planting soybeans, wheat, and other crops,” says McBlain.

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## Bale Chewer Turns Cornstalks Into Bedding

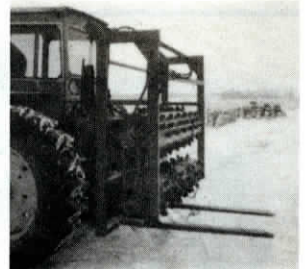
A “bale chewer” mounted on a tractor 3-pt. to chew up round bales of cornstalks for bedding has made it a lot easier to keep cattle sheds bedded around Stardell Farms, Inc., Fredericksburg, Iowa.

Doug Kleiss says it works great. “We rolled 10 ga. steel into two 18-in. dia. drums and then welded on metal teeth. The two drums are mounted parallel to each other on a moveable frame above the bale. The bale is picked up and carried on a bale fork at the bottom of the machine.”

The bale chewer drums, controlled by two hydraulic cylinders, lower down over the bale, chewing the stalks up and dropping them to the ground. The drums drop all the way down through the bale till it's all been chewed up. Both drums are powered by a single orbit motor that drives two drive chains.

The bale-chewing rollers are 7 ft. wide. Bale forks are 5 ft. long made from 2 by 4-in. tubing. The frame of the chewer is 6 ft. tall to accommodate the biggest bales.

“It'll chew up a bale in about 10 min. to just the right lengths for bedding and you don't even have to remove the twine. It



doesn't throw the stalks, it just cuts them off and drops them,” says Doug. “If we were going to do it again I would use 16-in. V-trough auger flighting with teeth welded to the flighting.” The bale chewer cost about \$800 to build.

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### Fold-Up Truck Ladder

“I needed a ladder on my truck box but didn't like the ladders on the market. So I made my own,” says Erling Faleide, Heimdal, N. Dak.

“My ladder rides flat against the truck box when not in use. To use, I simply pull on the center rung and the ladder folds down and out, making it easy to climb up into the box. To fold it back up, you simply lift up on the center ring and it'll automatically latch in place back against the side of the truck box.

“I haven't found a manufacturer for the ladder but I've prepared build-it-yourself plans that sell for \$3.25.”



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### Swinging Add-On Auger Spout

“We made a swinging auger spout to mount at the top of a conventional auger to fill quonsets from the inside,” says Joel Dewitz, Steel, N. Dak.

Dewitz mounted an unloading auger from a junked combine below the discharge chute of an auger, using a swivel bracket and chains to suspend it from the end. The swinging auger is powered by an electric motor, although it could be

hydraulically-powered. “By swinging the auger from side to side, grain can be filled higher on the building sides. We've used it for four years and it's saved a lot of shoveling,” says Dewitz, noting that he got the idea from a snow conveyor used to load trucks with a hydraulically swinging upper section.

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