

Harvestore "Take Down" Took Just 7 Hours

When Wisconsin farmer Allan Cihlar bought a used 20 by 60 Harvestore silo from a nearby farmer, he decided to take it down and move it by himself. All it took was 7 hrs., the help of 5 friends and a 45-ton crane.

"It normally costs \$2,000 or more to take down a silo this big. Our only cost was about \$550 for the crane," says Cihlar, who added the Harvestore to the line-up of 9 Harvestores already in use on his farm near Mosinee.

To dismantle the silo, Cihlar simply unbolted the silo at about 10 ft. off the ground, lifted and swung it off to the side, and then lowered it to several inches off the ground. Working with impact wrenches, the men took the silo apart one sheet at a time, lowering it toward the ground as needed.

Key to success of the dismantling operation were the specially designed irons Cihlar fastened to the top of the Harvestore to lift it. Four heavy angle iron brackets bolt to seams on the top sheet and spreader beams, positioned between the lifting cables, keep it from collapsing.

Cihlar bought the used silo for \$6,500.



He says it had a good unloader in it which was in itself worth the price he paid.

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Grain Reel Saves Down Corn

Last year when a hurricane blew down corn on the Arthur Dietrich farm near Graceville, Fla., he had to do some fast thinking to find a way to pick it up. After looking at several add-on devices available on the market, he decided to mount a grain reel just above the snouts on his cornhead to help pull lodged stalks into the head.

Dietrich first tried using the grain table alone, running the entire plant, stalk and all, through the combine. But he says his 1440 IH Axial Flow combine had trouble han-

dling all that material. So, with the help of his son and hired man, he took the regular head brackets and hydraulic driven grain reel off an 810 grain table and positioned the reel above and toward the front of the 6-row, 30-in. cornhead. The idea was to pull in the stalks as they bunched up on the snouts. He says the idea worked fine but that they still missed a lot of ears on the ground. The brackets remain in place on the cornhead, however, in case they ever have another disaster.

Warm-Up Water Heater

Robert Erlenbush, Xenia, Ill., found a way to lower his winter electric bill by about 15% by mounting a second "worn out" water heater above his wood stove to pre-heat incoming water before it enters the main water heater.

"My winter electric bills used to run \$50 a month or more and they were going up all the time. So I took an old water heater and hung it horizontally from metal straps above the wood furnace that heats our home from a back room. I then disconnected the cold

water line from the electric water heater and ran the line to the bottom of the water tank above the wood stove. I ran the pipe from the top of that tank to the electric water heater. The water from the "preheater" runs about 90°. The set-up cost less than \$25 and it doesn't look too bad either. We save about \$8 a month during winter," says Erlenbush.

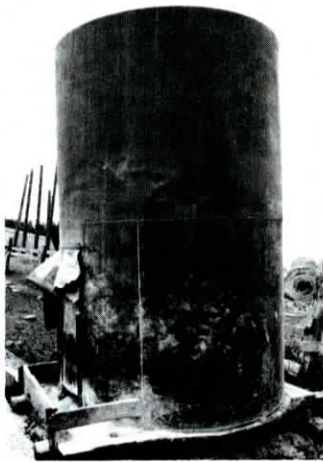
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Fuel Tank Grain Feeder

"They work great because cattle can't damage them and they'll hold a big supply," says Len Digney, Raymore, Sask., who uses old fuel and lard tanks to feed supplementary grain to cattle in feedlots.

Digney simply stands the tanks - which generally hold 400 bu. or more - on end on a wooden platform. He cuts a hole in the top for filling and installs a sliding metal door at the bottom along one side. Grain gravity feeds to a small wooden trough fashioned around the opening.

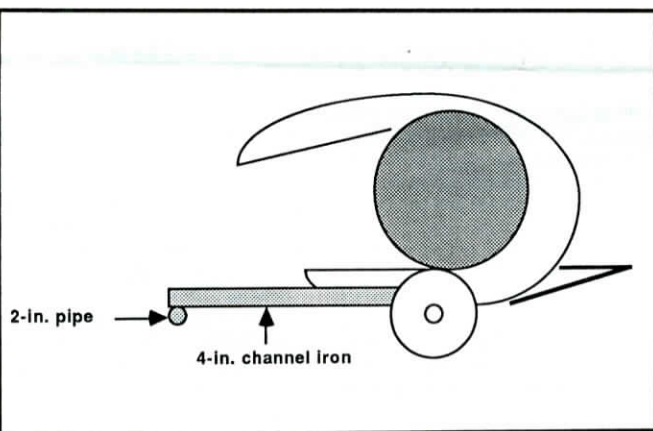
Digney cuts a hole in the top and stands the tanks on end on a wooden platform



FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



When bale is ejected, it rolls out and hits 2-in. steel pipe that runs across 4-in. channel iron pieces bolted to either side of baler. Pipe "bumps" bale far enough behind baler to close rear gate.

Simple Round Bale Kicker Eliminates Need To Back Up

"It's simple and it works," says Dick Derr, Winfield, Kan., who came up with an idea for a simple round bale kicker - with no moving parts - that "bumps" the bale far enough behind the baler to shut the endgate. No need to back up each time before ejecting the bale.

"I got tired of grinding gears and spending time doing something that's basically a waste of time. New Holland has come out with a bale kicker but it's much more complicated than this idea," says Derr.

He simply extended two pieces of channel iron out from the baler axle on either side of the back of the bale chamber. The channel iron extends about 22 in. behind the back of the baler and about 16 in. below the platform belt. A 2-in. dia. heavy cross pipe runs

between the two channel iron pieces, attached to the bottom edges of the channel iron (see drawing).

When the bale is ejected, it comes rolling out, hits the pipe and is "bumped" far enough behind the baler to shut the rear baler gate. "The hardest part was figuring out how far behind the baler to position the pipe. This idea should work with any baler. Last year I made 700 bales up to as large as 1,700 lbs. with no problems," says Derr, noting that the most important thing is to mount the channel iron pieces securely enough to withstand the jolt of the ejected bales.

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