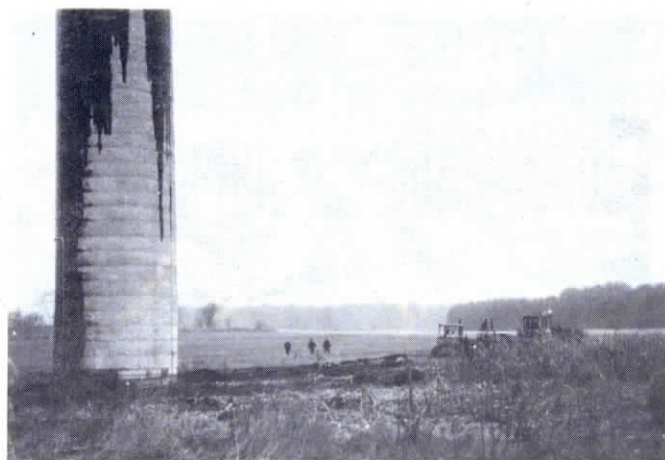


Ag World



Bulldozers pulled 16-ft. dia. concrete silo 3/4 mile across fields to Forbes' home place.

They Moved 60-Ft. Silo

For years Ontario farmer Ron Forbes hauled feed from a silo on an adjacent farm to cows 3/4 mile away on his home place. He finally decided to eliminate the time-consuming daily chore by moving the silo across 4,000 ft. of fields to a spot next to his dairy barn.

Forbes used three bulldozers to tow the 60-ft. high, 16-ft. dia. steel-reinforced poured concrete silo on a steel "sled" across corn stalks, wheat stubble, a newly planted wheat field, and a pasture.

"It got a lot of attention. Hundreds of people came out to watch the day we moved it last fall," says Forbes.

He moved the silo with the help of neighbor Tom Gordon, who operates a silo dismantling business and originally came up with the idea of moving the silo.

The men started the job by air-hammering four holes in the bottom of the silo and then using a cement saw to cut 2 ft. off the base of the silo. They used two 50-ton hydraulic jacks to lift the silo up 8 in., knocked out the base, and then put the "sled" underneath. Each side of the sled consists of two 21-ft. long, 18-in. wide steel I-beams welded together side by side with a 1/4-in. thick steel plate welded to the bottom. A pair of 12-in. I-beams ran across on the front and back. A curved steel plate welded underneath the front of the frame keeps it from digging into the ground. They also welded 5/8 by 8-in. angle iron cross braces onto each corner at a 45 degree angle and ran heavy wooden beams from corner to corner to reinforce the frame.

They wrapped a 200-ft. length of 2-in. dia. steel cable around the bottom of the silo and through guides on each side of the sled, then hooked it up to three bulldozers - a

Komatsu D155, and a Caterpillar D6 and D7. The cable ran through a big "snatch block" pulley positioned about 80 ft. in front of the silo.

On moving day the bulldozers arrived around 1 p.m. and were hooked up in about a half hour. They moved the silo about 5 in. on the first try, then the bulldozers had to be repositioned to get more traction. The D6 dozer was used as an anchor on one side of the "snatch block", with the D7 and Komatsu pulling together on the other side of the pulley. Once the silo was off its old foundation and in the field it pulled easy and there was no need to use an anchor.

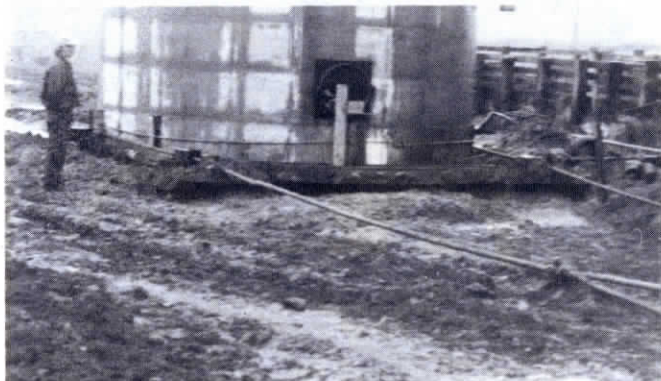
"It wasn't as difficult to move as I had anticipated," says Forbes. "For years I had been using the silo to store high moisture corn and using my pickup to haul feed every day from it to my home farm.

"The silo is in good shape since it's only 17 years old. It cost about \$10,000 to move compared to \$25,000 to \$35,000 for a comparable new concrete silo.

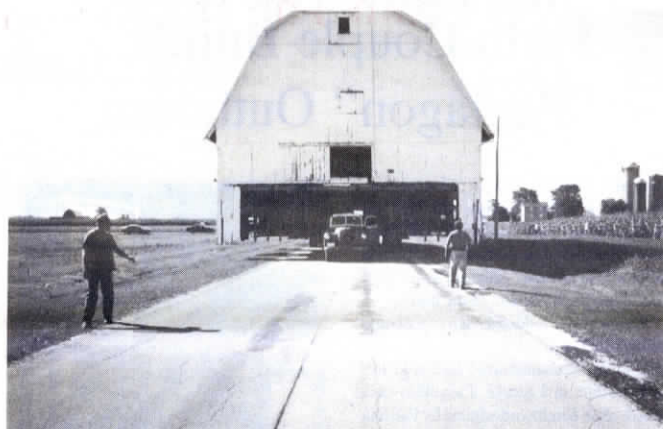
"The hardest part was moving the silo off its foundation. The silo, cable, and sled weighed about 130 tons. Once we got going it slid across the field with amazing ease. We traveled at about 4 mph.

"After the silo was moved onto its new foundation, we used cement saws to cut four 18-in. high, 1-ft. wide holes in the base. We then used two jacks to tip the silo up, one side at a time, so that the sled could be pulled out. Then we made a form around the base and poured three yards of concrete to anchor the silo."

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Silo rode upright on a steel "sled" made from steel I-beams.



Nofziger moved neighbor's old dairy barn 4 1/2 miles and converted it over to hogs. One truck towed barn on roads and two trucks pulled it across fields.

He Saved Money By Moving Neighbor's Barn

Curt Nofziger, Archbold, Ohio, wanted to put up a new hog finishing building - until he found out how much it would cost. That's when he got the cost-saving idea of buying his neighbor's old dairy barn. He moved it 4 1/2 miles and converted it over to hogs. The trek took the barn across fields, highways, bridges, and ditches.

"I got the barn free and in excellent condition. I was able to move it and get it into operating condition for about half the cost of putting up a new hog finishing barn. Another advantage is that it's more versatile than a specialized building. I could also use it for cattle or sheep or to store machinery."

Nofziger hired Junior Harmon from Napoleon, Ohio, to move the 40-ft. wide, 101-ft. long barn. Nofziger got the required moving permits for township, county, and state highways and contacted the local telephone company and rural electric cooperative about raising or removing lines along the barn's path. He hired two off-duty highway patrolmen and rented two marked patrol cars to block highway traffic. He also contacted 30 landowners along the route to get permission to trim trees, pull signs, and remove mailboxes and newspaper boxes.

One truck was used to tow the barn on roads and two trucks - one equipped with a winch - were used to pull it across fields.

Harmon and crew jacked the barn up and put steel I-beams and dollies underneath. A total of 32 wheels supported the barn. A tandem hitch connected the rear sets of dollies, allowing workers to steer from the back when maneuvering barn around turns.

Harmon used a 1948 2-ton truck equipped with beefed-up springs and three transmissions to tow the barn. "The range of speeds provided by the three transmissions allows the truck to start moving very slowly. Once we were on the road, we were able to move at a fast walk," says Nofziger.

The biggest challenge was getting around a couple of trees that grow close to the road. They had to steer the barn to the side and run one set of dolly wheels in a shallow ditch. They placed timbers in the ditch to bring the dollies on that side of the barn up to road level. As the barn inched ahead, timbers were continually taken from behind the wheels and placed ahead of them.

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