



Miller rebuilt this DriAll A-28 continuous flow dryer which had been junked.

"REBUILD FOR ONE THIRD THE COST OF A NEW DRYER"

Dryers Rebuilt To "Like New" Condition

If you've got an old grain dryer that's no longer in operating condition, you can save thousands of dollars over the cost of a new dryer by having it rebuilt, says Jim Miller, Scipio, Ind., who's doing a booming business rebuilding old grain dryers to "like new" condition.

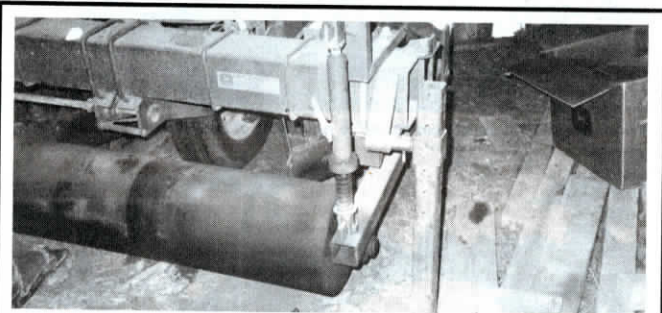
Miller says he can rebuild any type of dryer for about one third the cost of a new one.

"A lot of millwrights will work on dryers, but not many will rebuild them from scratch," says Miller, whose only advertising is by word of mouth. "Most farmers junk out old dryers that aren't in working condition. The dryers we rebuild have often been destroyed by fire or by acid from old, rotted grain. I check the dryers over for decay and rust, then sand blast and replace

any wornout parts such as chains and controls. Then I prime and repaint them. The cost to rebuild a particular dryer depends on its condition and age, but in general a 1,000 to 1,400 bu. per hour dryer will cost about \$15,000 to rebuild. A new dryer of comparable capacity sells for up to \$70,000.

"DriAll continuous flow dryers are one of the best models to rebuild because they're built simple and are easy to work on. Also, parts are easy to get. At one time I was the company sales manager. The company is out of business now, but they built a terrific dryer. I also rebuild Farm Fans and Beard dryers as well as other brands."

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Seedbed Roller For Row Crop Planters

Texas farmer and machine shop operator Bruce Gamble often builds new equipment for his own operation and later starts selling his inventions to neighbors, friends and customers at his ag equipment repair shop.

His latest innovation is a 12 3/4-in. steel roller mounted across the full width of his 6-row Deere 7100 Max-Emerge planter. It smooths the seedbed, breaking up dirt chunks and evening out uneven ground. It works particularly well for farmers in Gamble's area, who plant into elevated seedbeds, but he says it could be used on any type of cultivation system.

The pipe roller mounts on 1 1/2-in. dia. pillow block bearings, supported by a framework made out of 3-in. sq. tubing

that bolts directly to the planter. A spring-loaded adjusting assembly makes it easy to move the roller up and down. The springs give the roller about 2 in. of flex so they don't take weight off the gauge wheels, which drive the planter.

The roller simply clamps to the toolbar ahead of the row units and can be quickly removed if not needed.

"It creates a beautifully leveled seedbed that improves performance of the planter," notes Gamble, who sells a roller for a 6-row planter, along with mounting assemblies, for \$1,200. He also plans to make do-it-yourself kits available.

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Morgan can switch between two spouts - one that blows into a rear hopper and one that blows into a vehicle alongside.

"DIVERTER VALVE" KEY TO NEW INVENTION

"No Stop" Forage Harvester

"When harvesting forage we don't need a truck or wagon right beside us all the time thanks to this machine," says Sam Morgan, a Menlo, Kan., custom silage harvester.

His self-propelled harvester has a hopper on back that he can blow silage into when there's no truck or wagon alongside. The flexibility to maneuver more freely in the field means Morgan almost never has to stop chopping silage. Morgan and his father, Willard, and brother, Robert, who comprise Morgan Forage Harvesting, plan to bring their prototype to market in a couple of years.

The system is installed on the Morgans' Deere 5460. A "diverter valve" installs in the machine's blower housing, permitting Morgan to switch freely between two spouts - one that blows into the rear hopper and one that blows into a vehicle alongside. "It's unique," Morgan says.

When an operator needs to go around an obstacle in the field or when a truck is full, activating the valve from the cab redirects the flow of silage from the unload spout to the "on board" spout into the container. When the operator wants to empty the container, he starts up a webbed belted floor in the bottom of the hopper. It carries silage to a small auxiliary blower and auger that

pushes silage out of the hopper into the same spout he uses to load trucks or wagons. You can unload the on-board hopper while continuing to chop silage.

"We've got right at 800 hours on this experimental model," says Morgan. "We've been working on the concept since 1984. We're going to do some fine-tuning on this one over the winter. We think it'll be trouble-free by spring."

One problem that needs to be resolved is getting the diverter valve, made of abrasion resistant steel plate, to last longer.

Another is keeping the weight of the harvester down with all the modifications necessary to install the system.

For example, the 8-ft. wide by 4-ft. high by 6-ft long steel silage hopper mounted behind the harvester's cab and above the engine weighs at least 3,000 lbs. Mounting the container, which holds 3,000 to 4,000 lbs. of silage, also required extensive modification on the 5460's frame, further adding to the overall weight of the machine.

"We're hoping to get the weight down considerably," Morgan says.

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The 8-ft. wide, 4-ft. high, 6-ft. long hopper mounts on a Deere 5460 forage harvester.