

Wehling Repair and Fabrications sells a stalk chopping kit that only requires half the horsepower of an OEM chopper.



Custom Harvesting Leads To Unique Stalk Chopper

When his custom combining customers wanted him to buy a stalk chopping corn head, Eric Wehling had a better idea. Why spend \$50,000 on a new corn head when he could build his own? Seven years later, he's on his fifth-generation design and he's got a commercial chopping conversion kit ready to sell. His kit requires half the horsepower of an OEM chopper.

"I'm all about working with off-the-shelf components," says Wehling, Wehling Repair & Fabrication. "I found suppliers with the gearboxes, shafts and belt drives I needed. I use a supercharger belt for the main drive. It is superior to other belts. I fabricated the sheet metal, brackets, etc."

Wehling runs a custom farming service and operates a full-service repair shop for tractors, combines and diesel trucks. He also does retail sales for several component suppliers. However, an engineering degree and experience with AutoCAD, plus a love of building things, helped get the project going. Spending 20 years in equipment engineering, including working internationally and in research and development of new products, also didn't hurt.

In the fall of 2020, he rolled out his latest prototype on his Case IH 1660 and 2388 combines with 6-row Deere headers. He designed it to fit 40 and 90 series Deere corn heads, personal favorites of his.

"We run red combines and green corn heads," says Wehling. "The corn heads were designed in the 1950's and 1960's, when engineers had a head, and they were built tough."

Wehling notes that there is a vast amount of after-market components for rebuilding and maintaining these corn heads. "If you have a corn head you like, why get rid of it?" he asks. "These are proven tried and true and can be adapted to almost any combine."

Initially, Wehling is adding his stalk chopping unit to corn heads brought to his shop. "Our goal is a kit we can ship to your door and anyone with the knowledge can install," he says.

Wehling makes a wedge kit to help red combine owners interested in using a green corn head. He notes that the angles of the two don't match up.

"We incorporated a wedge kit and an adapter plate into one unit," says Wehling. "It matches a legacy Case IH combine to a Deere corn head. "You can drop your Case 1020 header and scoop up your Deere corn head without adjusting the faceplate angles on the feeder house."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wehling Repair & Fabrication, 10305 Saint Bridget Dr., Chippewa Falls, Wis. 54729 (ph 715-379-2092; ericwehling@hotmail.com).



The CHAD system from Schwab Brothers Hydraulics allows a variety of broken hydraulic hoses to be fixed in the field.

Make Hydraulic Hose Repairs In The Field

Make hose repairs quick with CHAD (Compact Hose Assembly Device) from Schwab Brothers Hydraulics. The CHAD system lets you fix a broken hydraulic hose right in the field.

"We offer 2 crimpers, one for farming attachments that operate from 2,500 to 5,000 psi and one for forestry," says Ryan Wood, Schwab Brothers Hydraulics. "The forestry crimper is for heavier duty equipment hoses operating at 6,000 psi plus."

Schwab Brothers has lots of experience with hydraulics, especially high psi systems. The 60-year-old company operates six logging crews in northern Florida. The hydraulics business was an outgrowth of logging. It now includes a manufacturer-stocked hose and fitting warehouse that eliminates distributor mark up, hydraulic hose and assembly manufacturing, 24-hr. service and customer training. Special order assemblies are available up to 40,000 psi.

"We were looking at how our logging crews could be more efficient and save on downtime," says Wood. "We developed CHAD units to fill a need. The CHAD is a tool to alleviate downtime. It is also perfect for the shade tree mechanic or small shop. All you need is an air compressor."

The CHAD units are more than just a crimper. They are self-contained Camlock cabinets with foot pedal controls for the crimping mechanism. They offer 120-ton crimping force and are service truck mountable. They include an air-powered hose cutting rotary saw, cutting discs, crimping dies and more.

The lower cost ag versions can handle up to 3/4-in. 4-wire and 1-in. 2 wire hoses. The



Crimpers can make hoses for either farming attachments or forestry equipment depending on size and wire hose.

forestry version is 1-in. 4-wire capable.

The CHAD Max offers four storage spaces for fittings and a robust toolbox on top. It is available in both ag (\$6,999) and forestry models (\$9,699). The CHAD Lite is more compact with only one fitting drawer (ag \$5,499; forestry \$8,999). The Chad Micro has no storage drawers, holding only the crimper and foot pedal control (ag \$4,499; forestry \$7,999).

Hose and fitting supplies are also available from the company, as is the option of a custom-designed crimping unit.

"We also have in-shop crimpers for heavy equipment repair shops like we have," says Wood. "They range from 3-in. 4-wire crimpers down to non-conducting thermoplastic crimpers. Whatever a customer needs, from a shade tree mechanic to a large diesel fitter or an independent farmer, we have an option."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Schwab Brothers Hydraulics, 2365 N. US Hwy 19, Perry, Fla. 32347 (ph 850-584-7006; ryan@schwabhydraulics.com; www.schwabbrothershydraulics.com).

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Poacher blocks allow farm equipment to drive into fields while keeping cars and small trucks out.

"Poacher Blocks" Stop Trespassers

Problems with trespassers dumping garbage on farm fields as well as unauthorized people driving into fields caused John Goodfellow of Morpeth, Northumberland, England, to design and create the Poacher Block. It stops most cars, 4-wheelers and pickups but won't impede tractors and most farm equipment.

Blocks are made standard at 12 ft. in length and will protect a gateway from 12 to 20 ft. For larger openings, Goodfellow supplies mini blocks to fill the gaps.

"A 12-ft. block weighs just over 1 ton but can be quite easily moved from one road to another with special lifting hooks set in the

concrete," says Goodfellow.

Blocks sell for about \$450 apiece in the UK.

Goodfellow currently has no contacts for the Poacher Blocks in North America but would be delighted to consider a partnership with an interested American producer or retailer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Goodfellow, Longwitton Farm, Morpeth, Northumberland England NE61 4JW (ph 011 44 7850 488-308; john@longwitton.com; www.poacherblock.co.uk).