



Photo shows reel expanded to 60-in. diameter from the standard 42 in.

## “ELIMINATES NEED FOR SOYBEAN HEADER”

# Reel Enlargement Kit Saves 3 To 5 Bu./Acre

New reel enlargement kit for grain headers increases reel size from the standard 42 in. dia. to 58, 60, or 62 in., allowing you to save 3 to 5 bu. of soybeans per acre, according to Reel Mfg. & Sales, Inc., Stonington, Ill.

The kit consists of 15 1/2-in. steel extension arms that bolt onto the existing reel arms and the mounting plate at the center of the reel.

“For only \$495 it gives you the benefits of bean headers that cost \$16,000 to \$20,000,” says William Roth, inventor and president of the company. “Enlarging your reel virtually eliminates the bunching, shattering and wrapping on standard size reels.

It's especially valuable in beans that are leaning away from the combine because it picks them up ahead of the cutterbar and feeds them into the auger in a steady, even flow, reducing bunching of the crop on the sicklebar and in front of the auger. Because the reel is larger it can be operated 20 to 30% slower to reduce shattering, yet at the same time you can increase ground speed 10 to 30%, depending on combine capacity.”

Roth says the conventional 42-in. dia. reel design has difficulty harvesting lodged beans. “If you push the reel forward to reach them, the reel moves 6 to 8 in. away from the auger so it won't feed as well. Our enlargement kit lets you reach the crop yet keeps the reel close to the auger. Once you set the reel you almost never have to touch it again. The steadier flow of crop material and slower reel speed also results in a better view of the sickle and therefore less concern about bunching. And wear and tear on belts, pulleys, drives and the motor are much less,” says Roth, who notes that the enlarged reels also work in wheat and other small grains.

The steel extension arms have three sets of holes that allow the arms to be extended 6, 8, or 10-in. A standard reel requires 36 of the adjustable arms and adds about 120 lbs. to weight of the reel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reel Mfg. & Sales, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 132, Stonington, Ill. 62567 (ph 217 325-4066 or 217 325-4137).



Dave Rogers (center) cut a 3 by 7-ft. opening in roof of this schoolbus and cut three dump holes in floor. He constructed a 4-ft. high retaining wall behind driver's seat.

## School Bus Grain Truck

“Works as well as any conventional grain truck and was a lot cheaper,” says Saskatchewan farmer Dave Rogers, of Mayfair, who turned an old 48-passenger school bus into a 350 bu. grain truck.

Rogers started with a 1974 Chevrolet C-50 school bus equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine and 5-speed transmission. He stripped out the seats and cut a 3-ft. wide, 7 ft. long hole in the roof. He cut three 10-in. sq. dump holes 5 ft. apart in the floor and covered them with slide chutes equipped with grab handles. He constructed a 4-ft. high retaining wall behind the driver's seat by bolting 2 by 6 planks to a pair of metal uprights. Rogers uses the bus to unload bins or to load out combines in the field.

“It does everything a regular grain truck can do and was the only grain truck hauler we owned for two years,” says Rogers, who built the rig with the help of sons Frank, Jim, and Bob. “It also makes a handy fertilizer supply truck when we're seeding grain.

“We built it because we needed to save money. I was in a farming partnership for 20 years when it was suddenly dissolved. I didn't have all the machinery I needed to farm and couldn't afford to buy a truck. I paid \$710 for the school bus. A used truck of comparable capacity would cost at least \$8,500.”

The grain box is 22 ft. long. Rogers can't fill it to the top with grain because that would put the bus over the legal road weight limit. “The legal limit in the bus for oats is 350 bu., but it can hold up to 598 bu.,” says Rogers. “The windows are strong enough to support the weight of grain without any reinforcement. The sides of the bus are also strong enough to support the weight of the grain, but we run a safety chain across the



Converted bus holds nearly 600 bu.

bus as a precaution. Each end of the chain is bolted to a 6-in. long piece of steel that's bolted to the outside of the bus. During unloading we shovel grain out of the corners.”

Two unloading holes are located in front of the rear wheels and one hole is located behind them. The auger unloads grain from one hole at a time. “We plan to speed up unloading time and eliminate the need to shovel corners by building a sloping false floor that will lead to the center hole,” says Rogers, who notes that grain can be unloaded from two or three holes at a time at the elevator depending on the size of the grates over the dump pit.

The loading hole on the roof is covered by a hinged 4 by 8-ft. plywood “flip lid” that latches shut.

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## “Vacuum Evictor” (Continued from cover page)

in the back of the truck with hundreds of their surprised neighbors. “They're alive and well. When you look inside they're running all around, trying to figure out what happened,” says Lindhorst.

Denver animal rights activists who've had a look at the machine have already reacted favorably to it. They like the idea that it can be used to kill the animals humanely with gas - by filling the enclosed compartment with exhaust gas from the truck - or even to relocate the critters, as the men did recently after clearing a prairie dog colony out of a metro park. They took the captured animals out into a wilderness area and let them go.

Lindhorst recommends that property owners use a disk or blade to lightly fill in all the prairie dog holes the night before they arrive with the “sucker upper” machine.

The prairie dogs will have pushed away the dirt from the inhabited holes by the next morning, making it easy for operators to see where to stick the hoses.

Lindhorst and Balfour charge about \$125 an hour to rent the machine and an operator - the farmer provides two workers to handle the hoses. “It's easy to use - no danger at all to operators. They just stick them down the holes,” says Lindhorst. The machine will clear about 20 acres a day, or about 800 holes, each of which can contain 2 or 3 prairie dogs.

Lindhorst doesn't know exactly how much suction the big vacuum creates, but he says the large hose can “lift a bowling ball up in the air”.

Since they first took the machine to the field last spring, Lindhorst and Balfour have heard from people all over the country with

pest problems. One of the most unusual requests was to suck muskrats out of their lodges (they're sure it would work). They say the machine should work great on any underground pest and they plan to take it on the road in the next year to work on other pest infestations. Right now, though, they have all the work they can handle in their immediate area, including a job clearing a large area at the Denver airport.

The men have applied for a patent on the machine and plan to go into production on it or license the design to a manufacturer.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Modern Welding & Machine Shop, 24363 Country Rd. L, Cortez, Colo. 81321 (ph 303 565-9885 or 303 565-9878).

Photo by Nancy Lofholm, Grand Junction Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colo.