



Adjusting mechanism mounts directly under each snout (snout removed in photo) between every two rows. Rotating shaft has two linkage arms attached to either end of it that attach to the stripper plates on each side. Hydraulically-controlled sliding tube under head turns rotating shaft, opening or closing stripper plates.

LETS YOU EASILY ADAPT TO DIFFERENT VARIETIES OR CONDITIONS

On-The-Go Adjuster For Combine Stripper Plates

"It took me 5 years to figure it out. Now I wouldn't combine without it," says Ontario farmer Norman Caron who's engineered a first-of-its-kind hydraulically-operated stripper plate adjusting system that lets him adjust spacing "on the go" between the two stripper plates above the snapper rollers on each row of his cornhead. A single lever in the cab adjusts all rows on his head at once.



Photo shows indicator gauge that's clearly visible from cab. Scale is marked in 1/16-in. increments.

"There's never been a quick way to change the size of the opening above the snapper rollers as conditions change in the field or when you move from one variety to another. Now we can open or close the stripper plates on the go if, for example, stalks are smaller on one end of a field than the other or if it's wet in the morning or dry in the afternoon. When set correctly the stripper plates should hit the butt end of the cob. If they're set too narrow you can break off stalks and if they're set too wide you can damage kernels. Now I find myself making constant adjustments on the go. Once you start using it it's easy to see when you've got it set right," says Caron, who custom-harvests seed corn in addition to running his own large operation. "I was tired of manually changing all the plates between jobs and couldn't afford the time it took."

Caron mounted a graduated scale on top of the head that he can easily see from the cab. The scale is marked in 1/16-in. increments. When the indicator is at the center line, the plates are set 1 in. apart.

"We didn't have any problems during 1,000 acres of harvesting last fall. It's a very simple design with minimal linkage so it requires little maintenance. It was a real time and crop saver that easily paid for itself," says Caron, noting that one unexpected use he found for the adjuster was as an "unplugging". If crop material starts plugging up he just opens the plates up wide and lets everything go down through.

The adjuster system is mounted on Caron's New Idea Uni System 844 cornhead but could be installed on any size or make of head.

"The only commercially-produced cornhead on the market with hydraulically-adjusted stripper plates is the Geringhoff

head from Germany. The problem with that system is that it only adjusts one plate, so the gap is not centered above the snapping rollers. We adjust both stripper plates," says Caron.

An adjusting mechanism mounts directly under each snout, exactly between every two rows. It consists of a rotating shaft with two linkage arms attached to each end of it that in turn attach to the stripper plates on each side. A bracket runs from each rotating shaft to a length of 2-in. sq. tubing beneath the snouts that runs across the full width of the header. A single 8-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder slides the tubing back and forth, turning the rotating shafts which open or close the stripper plates.

The end of each linkage rod is threaded to allow precise manual adjustment of all the plates so they can be set with the same gap front and back. "I prefer to set the back slightly wider than the front to prevent wedging of material. Once set, they all open and close simultaneously at exactly the same width," says Caron, noting that he's applied for U.S. and Canadian patents and hopes to sell the idea to a major manufacturer. The system can also be easily adapted to existing cornheads and he would like to hear by mail from readers interested in having a system installed on their cornhead.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norm Caron, Rt. 1, Grande Point, Ontario, Canada N0P 1S0.

ADAPTS COMMERCIAL RIGS TO 3-PT. HITCH

He Mounts Forklifts On Farm Tractors

"I've sold more than 150 of them. Farmers tell me they're one of the most useful tools they own," says Warren Zelhart, Beaver-ville, Ill., who adapts industrial forklift masts to tractor 3-pt. hitches.

Zelhart buys up used or junked forklifts from industrial equipment dealers. Sometimes he can buy just the mast itself. Other times, he buys the whole machine and junks everything except the mast. Recently he bought 61 brand new forklift masts from a manufacturer who had too much inventory.

The heavy-duty 2 and 3 stage units lift loads up as high as 20 ft., depending on the model. They fit any Cat II hitch and operate off a single hydraulic outlet. He can also fit the lift with an adapter that'll tip the mast forward and back.

"You can lift as much as 3 tons down low to the ground. If you've got a heavy enough tractor, they'll raise 1,800 lbs. or more to top height," says Zelhart. He makes a bale spear that mounts between the forks for handling round bales. The forks go under the bale and the spear keeps it from rolling off.

Zelhart sells his forks for \$600 to \$1,000, depending on the model.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Warren Zelhart, Rt. 1, Box 41, Beaverville, Ill. 60912 (ph 815 435-2286).



Zelhart adapts 2 and 3-stage forklifts, with up to 20 ft. of lift, to mount on 3-pt.



Entire load of bales dumps at once when rear gate is opened.

LOADS ITSELF BEHIND BALER

Gravity Basket For Hauling Hay Bales

"It has patented features not found on other similar bale wagons," says E-Z Trail of its new self-loading gravity basket for hay bales. Key features include:

Welded rather than bolted construction, allowing pre-assembled units to be shipped "nested" to dealers to minimize shipping and assembly costs. "All the dealer has to do is install the self-loading chute and hinged rear gate, and put on the wheels and hitch," says Abe Kuhns, sales manager.

With removable top extensions, the basket holds right at 120 regular 38 in. long hay bales. The rear end (11 ft. wide) is 1 ft. wider than the front to provide fast, easy emptying.

Eliminating the need for an expensive bale thrower, the baler pushes bales up the

self-loading chute with no more effort than if the bales were dumped off on the ground, Kuhns points out.

"We've designed an ultra-simple, rope-operated latch that, even with the pressure of bales pushing against it, is easy to open with a tug on the rope from the tractor seat. Without getting off the tractor, the operator dumps a full load of bales in less than 30 seconds."

The basket itself is made of 1-1/2 in. sq. tubing (14 ga.). It comes with standard 11 by 14 wheels (12.5 by 15 optional). Sells for \$2,800.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-Z Trail Inc.; Hwy. 133, PO Box 268, Arthur, Ill. 61991 (ph 217 543-3471).