

# Air System Replaces Bottom Silo Unloaders

A forage handling system from Europe that uses air and packer wheels to load and unload silos from the top is challenging expensive sealed silo structures, such as Harvestores, and bottom unloaders.

Many European and some American farmers reportedly are doing away with the breather bags in their sealed silos and converting them to pneumatic handling systems made by Neuero Corp., with the U.S. headquarters in West Chicago.

One of the first U.S. dairymen to convert a Harvestore to the Neuero pneumatic system is Nord Westover, of Clifton, Idaho. "We get about twice as much chopped forage in our Harvestore now because the Neuero system packs the material much better while filling," Westover told FARM SHOW.

Westover and his son, Jim, are also able to use a longer length of chop, which they claim makes better feed for their cows. "Because of better packing, the longer-stem material keeps very well, even though our Harvestore and a nearby Herd King are no longer sealed," explains Nord.

He notes that better packing, brought about by a large disk assembly that raises and lowers along with the blower/suction pipe of the Neuero air system, eliminates oxygen in the pack. For unloading, the disk assembly tears up the forage, even if frozen, and moves it to the system's central suction pipe.

"The system is really trouble-free," Westover told FARM SHOW. "One system serves our two silos. It works strictly on air and there's little to break down or wear out. We just turn on the blower and it sucks the feed out and blows it into our feed wagon. Systems also can be installed to deliver feed into bunks.

"The major advantages of the system," claims Westover, "are greater silo capacity and the fact that we can increase length of chop of their forage. We set the chopper on the longest length possible. Some pieces are 3 to 4 in. long. It's better feed — we've had less digestive troubles with the cattle, and butterfat content has increased."

Paul Bender, division manager of Neuero Corp. in West Chicago, told FARM SHOW that most Harvestore owners could expect a fourth to a third more capacity by equipping their structures with a Neuero system.

"The Neuero is capable of handling a wide range of material," points out Bender. "One of the requirements of bottom unloading is that you have to have the feed at a specific moisture content — about 45 to 55% — and you have to cut to very short lengths. The

Neuero system can handle lengths as great as 4 in., and material up to 70% moisture. The longer chop is a better feed. European dairymen prefer it. In fact, Harvestore in Europe now builds a silo adapted to the Neuero pneumatic system," Bender told FARM SHOW. "The system is also usable with ground ear corn but is not particularly suited to kernel corn, primarily because whole corn grain won't pack."

Bender notes that another advantage of the Neuero system is that it is easily serviced by the farmer himself.

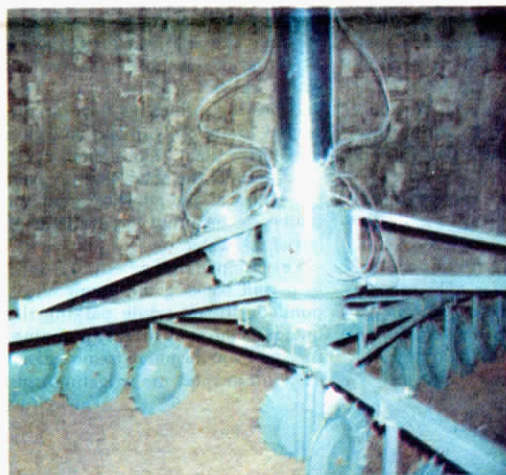
Adapting it to an existing Harvestore could cost upwards of \$25,000, says Bender. That would include the blower with 40 hp electric motor, and the filling-unloading-conveying system and piping. The replaced bottom unloader could be sold. Also, the need for a tractor to fill the silo is eliminated.

"Starting from scratch," says Bender, "You could build a less expensive non-airtight structure, such as a concrete silo, install the Neuero, and save money overall."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Neuero Corp., 1201 Hawthorne Lane, West Chicago, Ill. 60185 (ph 312 231-9020).



One Neuero pneumatic loading-unloading forage handling system serves two silos — a Harvestore and a Herd King — on the Nord and Jim Westover dairy farm, Clifton, Idaho.



Inside silo, large disks distribute and pack the forage when filling, eliminating air. The disks also dig out the forage for unloading. Single blower (right) is used to fill silos, and to distribute feed to bunks as it's unloaded out of silos.



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