

Modified Silo Blower Cracks Shelled Corn

"Several years ago I read in FARM SHOW (Vol. 13, No. 6) about a farmer who had installed sickle sections in a piece of pipe just above his silo blower in order to crack shelled corn as he blew it up into his silo. I've used the idea for three years with good results," says Robert Ullom, Flandreau, S. Dak.

The farmer who originally came up with the idea was Kendall Hardies, Hillman, Mich. He welded 50 sickle sections into the sides of a section of pipe that fits between the blower and pipe leading up into the silo. He cut 2-in. slots into the pipe and then inserted the sections 1 1/2 to 2 in. inside the pipe, just far enough so all of the sections' sharp edges extended inside the pipe. Then he used a wire feed welder to weld the sections in place.

Ullom found that by installing two rows of sections - one above the other - he was able to take corn faster without any plugging and he was able to crack more corn (in the original story, Hardies said he was able to crack about 85 percent of corn). "The top

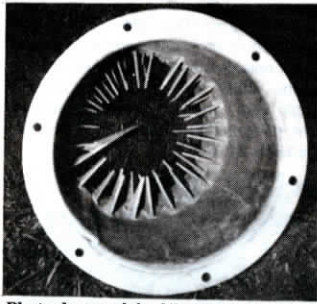


Photo shows original "corn cracker" built by Kendall Hardies, Hillman, Mich.

row of sickle sections is about an inch above the bottom row and sections are positioned between the sections below them."

Ullom says the idea eliminated the need for a second tractor to power a recutter or roller mill. "It sure makes cracking corn much easier," he told FARM SHOW.

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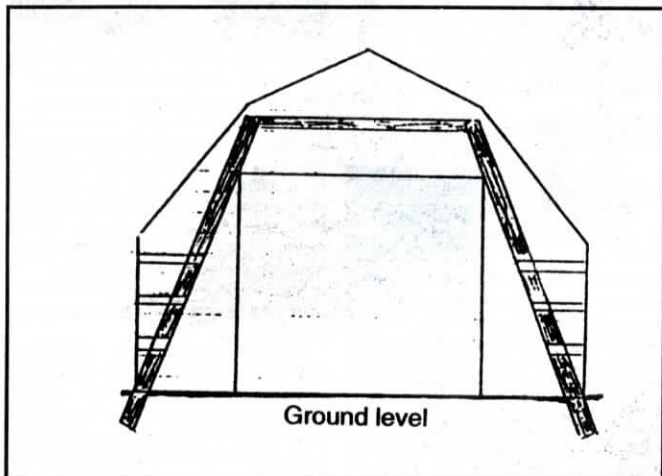
He Uses Drywall Scraps To Fertilize Fields

Neighbors sometimes wonder what's going on when they see construction trucks pull into Don and Lloyd Klein's farmyard and dump loads of drywall scraps from area building projects.

The two Sun Prairie, Wis., farmers say the gypsum in the waste sheetrock - which would otherwise go into a landfill - beefs up the ph in their fields. Before putting it on fields, they mix it into compost piles.

For several years, the Kleins have composted manure from their dairy and steer herd by mixing it with leaves brought to them by the nearby city of Madison. They've also mixed in various other ingredients with the compost over the years including egg shells from a nearby processing plant.

The men lay their compost out in windrows that they stir up with a powered composting machine that mounts off to the side of a tractor. High heat in the piles and the regular mixing breaks down the drywall scraps so that the final composted product looks like rich black dirt which they then spread on fields. The men use no herbicides or insecticides. Weed seeds are killed by high heat in the compost piles. Further weed control is achieved with flame weeders that burn off the weeds. They generally run the flame weeder through corn fields twice during the growing season. Yields last year were over 200 bu. an acre. (Gloria Hafemeister in Wisconsin State Farmer)



Rebuilt Dairy Barn

Here's how Peter Sawatsky converted an old barn to have more overhead clearance so it can be used for machinery or grain storage.

He set pole barn type poles in the ground at an angle inside the barn with a cross bar at the top. Poles were spaced at 10 to 12 ft. intervals down the length of the barn. Then he ran 2 by 6's from the poles to the walls, nailing them in place at even intervals up the

sides.

Once the poles were secured in place, Sawatsky removed the hay loft and raised the height of the doors. "Gives you an obstruction-free barn that makes a great shop or flat storage area," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Sawatsky, Killarney, Manitoba, Canada. (Grainews)



"Indestructible" Fence Line Feeder

After years of trouble with torn-up fence line feeders, Jim Todd, Athens, Ill., finally came up with a feeder his cattle cannot damage.

He built it using 10-in. dia. concrete-filled posts sunk 4 ft. into the ground and heavy-walled oil field drill stem for cross bars. He used steel auger tubing - minus the flighting - for the posts. He set them in the

ground, cut holes in the sides, and then inserted the crossbar railings. Once the fence was set up, he hired a local concrete outfit to come out and fill the posts. It makes a solid anchor for the feeder he set up at the base of the fence.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Todd, Athens, Ill. 62613.

Cheap Way To Rebuild Sweeps

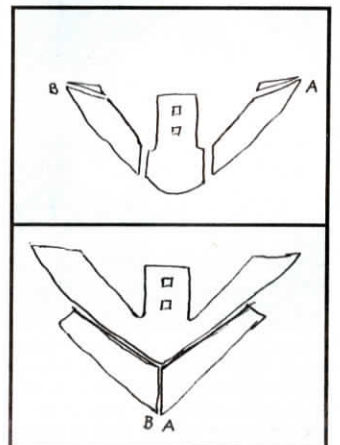
"I've never had one break in rocky ground," says Lawrence Erlenbusch, Angela, Mont., who rebuilds cultivator sweeps by "canabilizing" the wings off one worn sweep to rebuild another.

"Usually what happens is that the front part of a sweep wears away, leaving the wings at the rear at almost full width. I cut off the wings and remove a small wedge at the back (B & A in the drawing) so the wings fit together properly at the front joint (B-A in the drawing) when the cut-off wings are turned end for end.

"It's a bit tricky getting the right angle on the welded-on portions. My first rebuilt sweep was a 'digger' and the second was a 'float'. I've rebuilt about a hundred since then with no problems. I recommend that you experiment with a couple and try them out so you get the hang of how to hold the metal to weld it. After I weld the wings on, I add some hard-surfacing, too.

"The result is an ugly looking sweep, but they work good.

"I've also rebuilt grain drill shoes by cutting off small pieces of field cultivator



sweeps and welding them to the shoes."

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