

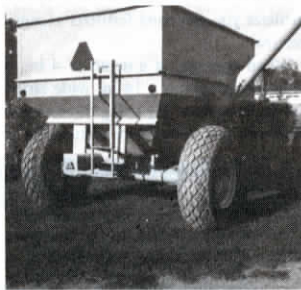
Auger Wagon Mounts On Combine Axle

A Minnesota farmer builds low-cost auger wagons by mounting used gravity boxes on the axles and wheels off old pull-type combines, then adding augers and a hitch.

Mark Foldesi, of Greenbush, made several of the auger wagons last fall when wet weather kept farmers in his area from getting into fields with trucks or 4-wheel gravity boxes. He usually equips each 200 to 400 bu. grain box with two augers, one along the bottom and one out the side. Each auger is powered by an orbit motor.

"They're a cheap way to haul grain. The combine axles are very strong, and the big flotation tires make it easy to get around in soft fields," says Foldesi. "I can usually build them for about \$1,000 if the farmer supplies his own box or about \$2,000 if I use a new box. New commercial auger wagons sell for at least \$7,000 although they generally have more capacity. I buy combines from farmers at scrap iron prices. I prefer using Deere 96 or International 914 pull-type combines because they have good undercarriages and frames. I buy used gravity boxes and augers at auctions.

"I recently used an old fertilizer tender box and the axles and 18.4 by 26 wheels off a Deere 96 combine to build my own 350-bu. auger wagon. It has a crank-operated opening at the bottom for



dumping grain into a pit and an auger along the bottom that unloads out the back. I used 8-in. steel I-beams to make the hitch. I paid \$150 for the combine and spent a total of about \$1,000 to build it.

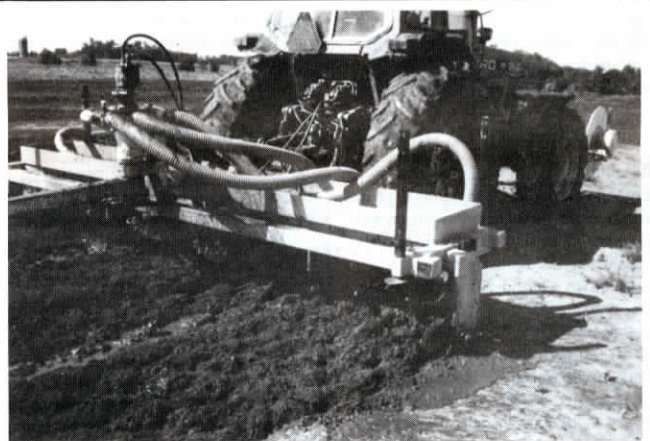
"I look for boxes that dump out the bottom instead of the side. When side-unloading boxes are mounted on 4-wheel trailers they dump between the trailer's front and rear wheels, but when they're mounted on a single combine axle the wheel gets in the way. The box has to be moved forward which puts too much weight on the hitch."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Foldesi, Foldesi Welding & Repair, Rt. 1, Box 369, Greenbush, Minn. 56726 (ph 218 782-2619).

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Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)



Aerway Tool Incorporates Manure

"It lets me incorporate liquid manure into any type of ground, including plowed ground, untouched corn stalks, and even hay fields," says Rick Martens, Mora, Minn., who uses a 1993 Aerway 16-ft. aeration tillage tool to custom apply manure pumped to the tractor-pulled unit through irrigation hose.

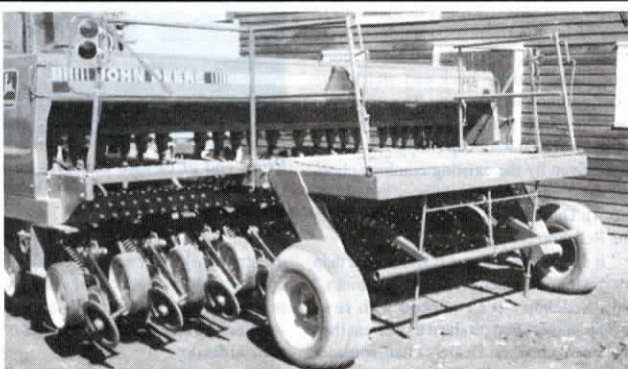
Martens bolted a manure injection manifold equipped with five 3-in. dia. drop tubes to the top of the aerator. The manifold is fed by a 6-in. dia. irrigation hose that runs direct to a liquid manure pit. He drags the hose behind the Aerway back and forth across fields up to two miles away from the pit. Manure exits the drop tubes and is fanned out by steel splash shields bolted onto the aerator frame about 6 in. ahead of the tines.

"It works better than a chisel plow because it aerates and fractures the soil without leaving big furrows and because it can be used on hay fields," says Martens. "The bolt-on tines are about 8 in. long and 1 in. wide at the base. They

have a slight twist that helps fracture and loosen the soil so manure is more easily absorbed. The angle of the gang can be adjusted to vary the aggressiveness of the tines. I pull it with a Ford 8630 front wheel assist tractor that has 120 hp. I can inject up to 1,000 gallons per minute and vary application rates from 6,000 to 12,000 gallons per acre. It's a very low maintenance tillage tool so I don't have to worry about a lot of downtime.

"I had been using a chisel plow equipped with 24-in. wide sweeps on plowed ground and a traveling gun irrigator on alfalfa. However, the irrigator left manure on top of the alfalfa where it could choke the crown. Also, it couldn't reach the corners of the field and there were problems with runoff and with drift caused by winds."

He paid \$7,200 for the 16-ft. Aerway. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Martens, Rt. 4, Box 465, Mora, Minn. 55051 (ph 612 679-5485).



Deere 750 "Catwalk"

"I've had a lot of interest in my redesign of the catwalk on back of Deere's 750 drill," says Todd Intermill, Colman, S. Dak., who added a platform over the rear lift wheels on the planter that makes it easier to unload seed or other supplies onto the drill out of a pickup.

Intermill built it to match the existing catwalk and he extended the railing back

on either side of the new deck.

"Total cost of materials was less than \$500. Loading ease is increased 10 fold over the standard Deere deck," says Intermill. He'll make blueprints available for a fee if there's enough interest.

Contact: Todd R. Intermill, Rt. 1, Box 27A, Colman, S. Dak. 57017 (ph 605 534-3136).