

BUILT OUT OF OLD COMBINE

Self-Propelled Grain Auger Speeds Up Grain Handling

"It used to take us an hour to load a semi-trailer with our 7-in. dia. auger so it sometimes got pretty congested when we were hauling grain. Now we can load 1,200 bu. into a trailer in 11 minutes, eliminating traffic jams," says Philip Meyers about the high-capacity, self-propelled auger he and his foreman, John Garrett, built out of a combine.

They've used the rig since 1993 to move an estimated 300,000 bu. of wheat. It's equipped with two augers - a long 40-ft. one that pulls grain out of storage and into a collection hopper, and a discharge auger that transfers grain to waiting trucks.

The prototype has been virtually trouble-free, and the men are considering producing the machine commercially with up-to-date hydrostatic drives and diesel power.

The auger is gas-powered by a late 1970's Massey Ferguson 410 combine engine. The combine was stripped down to its final drives, cab, and engine. The frame was stretched from 10 to 15 ft. behind the cab.

An A-frame support mounts on back of the frame. It acts as a guide for the 11-in. dia. auger which is fitted with a skid plate on the end. A hydraulic cylinder on the support frame raises and lowers the auger as much as 36 in. above ground level and 6 in. below it.

An oil reservoir tank mounted behind the

cab supplies the hydraulic pump that drives the main auger and a second pump which powers the machine's 12 3/4-in. dia. discharge auger.

The men mounted a tapered 25-bu. hopper made out of 3/16-in. thick metal plate on a bracket up front where the feederhouse was originally. The feederhouse welded into a stationary position.

In the center of the hopper, the men mounted the unloading auger which came off a burned up Massey 860 combine. It pivots hydraulically 360°, controlled by a chain and sprocket drive. The auger is fitted with a hydraulically-controlled discharge spout that makes it easy to control the flow of grain.

"We can control the angle of the grain dropping out of the spout to make sure loads are level and balanced," says Meyers.

So far, Meyers has used the auger to primarily move spring wheat out of flat storage. But the machine works great in all grains and storage facilities, Meyers notes.

"You can unload any type of storage with it and you can back trucks in parallel on both sides or perpendicular across the front," he says.

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The auger is gas-powered by a late 1970's Massey Ferguson 410 combine engine.



Pigg uses 20-ft. long sections of 24-in. dia. corrugated plastic culvert pipe, cutting the pipe in half lengthwise with a chainsaw.

"Indestructible" Plastic Pipe Cattle Feeders

Last fall, North Carolina farmer Johnny O. Pigg came up with a design for two "indestructible" cattle feeders. The idea works so well neighbors are now asking him to make the feeders for them.

"Cattle can't damage them and they'll never rust. And they were about \$300 cheaper to make than any comparable size commercial feeders I've seen," says Pigg.

He uses 20-ft. long sections of 24-in. dia. corrugated plastic culvert pipe that has a smooth inside surface. He cuts the pipe in half lengthwise with a chainsaw.

To the underside of each half he bolts three rubber tires - one on each end, one in the middle - so they lay flat on the ground.

Pigg then bolts 4-in. wide plastic pipe over the sharp edges.

The ends of the feeders are capped by pieces of 2 by 10-in. treated lumber that are bolted in place.

"The whole project took only an hour and a half or so," Pigg says. "Total cost for two 20-ft. feeders was about \$155, compared with the \$460 four 10-ft. com-



Ends of the feeders are capped by pieces of 2 by 10-in. treated lumber.

mercial feeders would have cost. And these will last forever."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Johnny O. Pigg, R.R. 4, Box 220, Marshville, N.C. 28103 (ph 704-624-2602).



Rig is equipped with two augers - a long 40-ft. one that pulls grain out of storage and into a collection hopper, and a discharge auger that transfers grain to waiting trucks.

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