



Forage Harvester Snowblower

Mike Rice doesn't let his Deere 5400 forage harvester sit idle during the off-season. Instead, he's figured out how to mount a large 9-ft. wide snowblower on the front of the 200-plus horsepower machine.

"A self-propelled forage harvester makes a powerful blower and, because it has hydrostatic drive, you can run at any speed. It's also much easier to operate with the blower mounted out front rather than on the rear of a tractor," notes Rice.

To mount the blower on the forage harvester, Rice mounted a 3-pt. bracket on the front of the

machine so the blower raises and lowers with the harvester's header controls. He then mounted a salvaged gearbox onto the gearbox driving the cutter on the header. A pto shaft runs up from the gearbox to the snowblower.

"It can be converted back to harvesting in 2 to 3 hours by removing the 3-pt. bracket and the gearbox," says Rice, noting that he has no traction problems with the forage harvester because the blower rides up front over the harvester's drive wheels. He puts chains on the wheels, however.



New Tool Separates Two-Piece Ear Tags

"Saving the male part of a two-piece ear and insecticide tags saves you 20 to 30 cents a tag," says Floyd Simpson, a Belmont, Ohio, cattle producer who designed a handy ear tag remover.

It works with all brands of plastic two-piece tags. "The front parts of insecticide tags only last five months before they should be removed. By removing them with this new tool, you can save and reuse the male section. You can also use the tool to take the tags off cattle going to market. Plus, it comes in handy if you make a mistake tagging livestock," says Simpson.

To use the ear tag remover,

Simpson gives this explanation: "Line up the dimpled driver pin over the tip of the male tag as it's exposed through the female tag. The forked part of the tool slips between the front of the ear and the tag. Squeezing the tool's handles forces the driver pin through the male tag, separating it from the female portion without hurting the animal or damaging the tag."

Simpson, who is looking for a manufacturer, estimates that the tool will sell for about \$20.

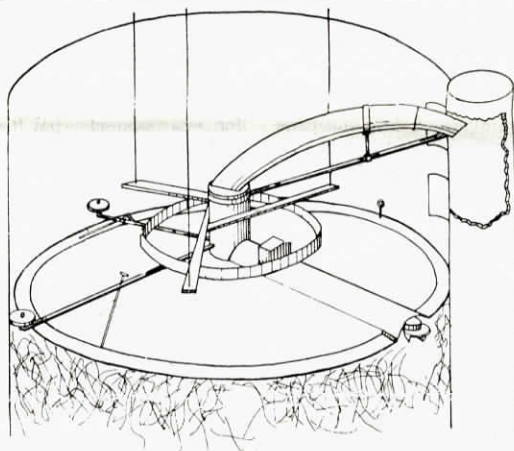
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Floyd Simpson, Ovas, Inc., 44680 Bel-Cent Road, Belmont, Ohio 43718 (ph 614 686-2510).

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**"Made
it
Myself"**

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, MN 55044).

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



"Poor Man's Harvestore"

"The only place a conventional silo isn't sealed is on the surface of the silage. Our new unloader cover turns most any silo into a sealed structure that'll do the job of a Harvestore for a lot less money," says Tom Elliott who, along with Todd Knecht, has patented a sealed silo unloader that keeps the surface of stored silage covered as it's unloaded.

"The unloader has a one-piece cover made out of foamed rubber with a heavier rubber on the outside perimeter where it contacts the silo wall.

"With this cover, silage doesn't freeze in winter except for what touches the wall. Haylage can be put up drier than is now possible with current unloaders but wetter than in a bottom unloading structure. We

think high-moisture shelled corn, and perhaps even stalkage could be stored in conventional silos with this unloader.

"It allows farmers more flexibility in feeding programs for a reasonable cost. You can feed differing levels of feed from different silos at the same time with no regard to spoilage or deterioration in feed quality. Likewise, when animals are out on pasture in the summer you don't have to keep feeding to keep ahead of spoilage."

The two inventors are looking for a company to manufacture their invention. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Elliott and Todd Knecht, Rt. 5, Box 215, Towanda, Penn. 18848 (ph 717 358-3368).