

WORKS SO WELL, HE STOPPED USING HIS UPRIGHTS

Labor-Saving Way To Fill Bunk Silos

"Our set-up for grinding high-moisture corn makes it easy to fill our bunk silos," says Steve Meerman, Coopersville, Mich., who positions a Massey Ferguson 260 chopper and a 150 bu. gravity wagon on stilts near the opening of his bunk silos, mounted on a concrete pad.

Meerman says his 5 bunker silos are his "best buys" in recent years. "We stopped using our upright silos and sold the unloaders along with all our dry hay equipment, self unloading wagons, augers, and so on - a total of 32 pieces of equipment in all. Everything was replaced with a mixer wagon to feed cows and one dump wagon to pull behind the chopper."

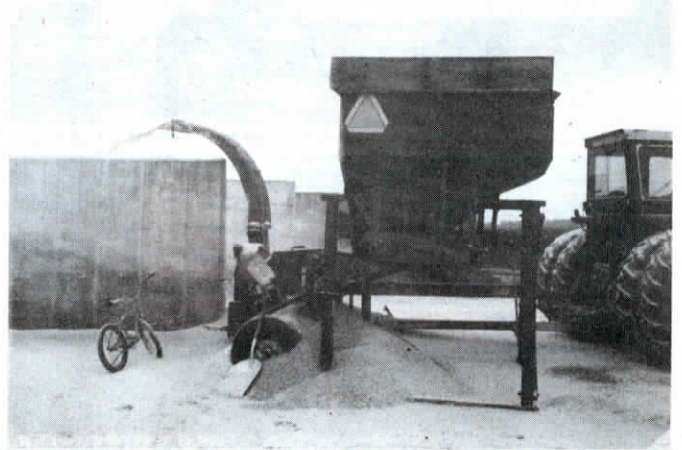
He built 5 bunkers 100-ft. long and from 16 to 20 ft. wide with 8-ft. high poured concrete sidewalls. He stores high-moisture corn, silage and haylage in different bunks and then mixes them before feeding. Each silo is sealed with plastic and tires are laid side-by-side in a solid layer across the entire bunk.

One of the problems Meerman had to solve was figuring how to load corn into the bunks. His gravity wagon set-up lets trucks and wagons dump their load and head back out to the field. There's no waiting to unload and corn can be piled on the concrete pad if the combine is too fast or the chopper isn't running.

The gravity wagon feeds the chopper (a standard model with a 3/4-in. screen) which chops the corn and blows it into the front of the bunk. Then he uses a 256 Versatile loader tractor to push and level the chopped corn.

"My only regret is that we didn't put up our bunk silos sooner. Milk production has increased and our harvests are much more timely. I hope more farmers will realize they don't need the grief and trouble of upright silos," says Meerman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Meerman, 14238 60th Ave., Coopersville, Mich. 49404 (ph 616 837-8251).



Meerman positions a Massey Ferguson 260 chopper and a 150-bu. gravity wagon on stilts near the opening of his bunker silos, mounted on a concrete pad.

"PRACTICALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE AND GUARANTEED NOT TO LEAK"

They Turn Tires Into Stock Tanks

Anthony and Helen Kessler, Wetonka, S. Dak. ranchers, turn huge worn-out earth-moving equipment tires into inexpensive and durable stock tanks that they guarantee won't leak.

The Kesslers buy discarded earth-moving equipment tires from mining companies in the eastern U.S. The tires are hauled by semitrailer once a month to their ranch. Kessler uses a machine he invented to cut off the top sidewalls of the tires. He attaches steel plate or concrete pads to the remaining tire bead to form the bottom of the tank. Then he installs drain and overflow pipes.

"These tanks are practically indestructible," says Kessler. "They don't get damaged like metal or wood tanks do. When you hit one of them with a tractor loader the tractor just bounces away. They'll never rust out, and they cost less than many other types of livestock waterers. For example, our 9 ft. dia. tire equipped with our thickest steel plate bottom sells for \$525. The same size redwood tank sells for about \$1,100."

According to Kessler, the tire's thick dark-colored rubber holds heat better than cement, wood, or metal tanks. "A wood tank develops ice 6 to 8 hours earlier than our tire tanks. In fact, these tanks rarely need to be heated because they stay ice-free down to -30°."

The biggest model is 9 ft. in dia. and holds 850 gal. of water. It has 5-in. thick sidewalls and weighs 2,600 lbs. When equipped with a 12-in. thick concrete bottom it weighs 6,000 lbs. "It takes a big tractor to move a 6,000-lb. tank, so we fit almost all of our tires with steel plate bottoms which come in 3/16, 1/4, 5/16, and 3/8-in. thicknesses and weigh only about 200 lbs. so the tank weighs about 2,800 lbs. The steel plates are attached with 5/8-in. dia. bolts and are sealed



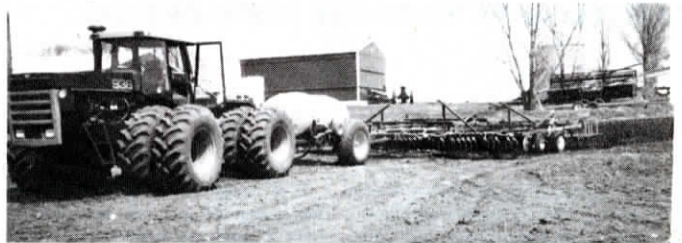
Kessler cuts off the top sidewalls of the tires, then attaches steel plate or concrete pads to the remaining tire bead to form the bottom of the tank.

with a special tar paint to prevent rust."

The tires can be equipped with drain pipes and overflow pipes if desired. The top of the overflow pipe is 1 to 2 in. from the top of the tire. Float valves can be installed to regulate water level. By removing the drain pipe's cap you can flush out all of the water to clean the tank. Two tanks can be set side by side for double-reservoir capacity and plumbed together.

Tire stock tanks are available in 6, 7, 8, and 9-ft. dia. sizes and sell for \$200 to \$575, depending on tire size and choice of bottom.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anthony Kessler, RR 1, Box 133, Wetonka, S. Dak. 57481 (ph 605 439-3686).



Meixel used the frame from a junked-out IH 914 combine to build the spray cart which he pulls between his tractor and either a 34-ft. soil finisher or a 50-ft. field cultivator.

COSTS ABOUT HALF AS MUCH AS A COMPARABLE COMMERCIAL RIG

"In Between" Cart Built From Old IH Combine

"We built this spray cart to pull between our tractor and either a 34-ft. soil finisher or a 50-ft. field cultivator, at speeds over 8 mph," says Chuck Meixel, Jr., Starbuck, Minn., who used the frame from a junked-out IH 914 combine.

"We equipped it with a 1,000 gal. tank and a Dempster SND-1 ground-drive hydraulic pump for agitation. Cart measures 120 in. from center to center of wheels so we're able to use it in row crops. Length is 15 ft., 10 in. from hitch pin to hitch pin. Axle measures 3 1/2 in. by 7 1/2 in. with 5/16-in.

sidewalls and fitted with 2 1/2-in. spindles.

"We have pulled it for two years and have never had to repair anything on it. We feel that we can really conserve soil moisture by doing everything in just one trip. Normally we had to make two trips to incorporate Trellan and Eradicane. We've built other similar carts, ranging from 500 to 1,600 gal., for about half the price of comparable commercial rigs."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chuck Meixel, Jr., Rt. 1, Box 45, Starbuck, Minn. 56381 (ph 612 239-2934).

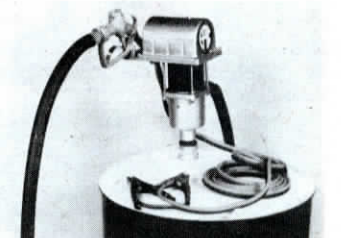
HANDLES FUELS, OIL, KEROSENE, ETC.

12-Volt Transfer Pump

New 10-gal. per min. transfer pump handles anything from gasoline to heavy-weight oil.

Powered-off a 12-volt battery, it's designed with a "low drain" system that reduces battery strain. Mounts on any drum to handle oils, fuels, anti freeze and other liquids. Capacity depends on the viscosity of material. Sells for \$365.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LubeCon, Ltd., 6735 W. 64th St., Fremont, Mich. 48412 (ph 800 582-3266).



10-gal./min. pump mounts on any drum.