

only problem I've had is with the sensors. Could use a tighter cab. I'd buy a Massey Ferguson 8460 made by Claas if I were in the market for a new machine."

"The overall performance of our 1987 Claas 114 CS Commander is good. Handles tough grain well and the hydrostatic drive is A-1. We had a very wet fall with ruts a foot deep or more and the hydraulic drive oil didn't even get hot. We harvested 1,000 acres and never got stuck once. Maintenance costs have been low although parts are expensive and delays common. Problems exist in the dealer network and technical support is inadequate. A good understanding of electrical systems and hydraulics is necessary since the unit uses electric-over-hydraulics to control all hydraulics. We had a number of minor but annoying electric/hydraulic problems that the dealer couldn't solve but we were able to solve them since I'm a licensed heavy-duty mechanic with added training in electrical and hydraulic systems. The machine is well-built and should last for many years. The separation area could also be improved. Larger openings on the separation concaves would allow quicker separation of grain from straw and allow less carryover. Most all operations, like concave setting, cylinder and reel or pickup settings can be accomplished without leaving the operator's

"We modified the combine to allow better airflow to the cleaning fan."

seat. Adjustable knife settings on the straw chopper allow the operator to choose how coarse the straw residue will be. We modified the combine to allow for better airflow to the cleaning fan by removing bottom covers and installing screens. This reduces the amount of chaff, etc., that gets drawn past the belts in windy conditions," says Don Williams, Spirit River, Alberta.

"My neighbors have two MF 760's that use the same amount of fuel as my one TR85 when we are working in the same field," says J.F. Moore, Arden, Manitoba, about his 1982 New Holland TR85. "They could have solved the problem by enlarging the pulley on the main drive to slow down the engine and reduce fuel use. Otherwise, we're pleased with this machine. It's got a very good threshing mechanism and we're pleased with the headers for it."

Al Snyder, Meyronne, Sask., owns a "best buy" 1990 Deere 9500. "It has good capacity, is easy to adjust, and we've had little dockage. Deere's warranty is good, however, quality control could be improved. Our combine had a number of augers that were out of round. Our 930 rigid platform header cuts well with lots of adjustments for different crop conditions. If we were buying a new combine we'd probably buy a new Deere because I think Case/IH and Massey will go bankrupt."

"We're very pleased with our 1989 Case/IH 1640 with a 6-row 30-in. corn head and a 17-ft. bean head. It picks the field clean and puts clean grain in the truck and handles weedy patches with commendable ease," says H. Frank Brooks, Kinston, N.C. "Wish they would design it so the hopper cleaned itself out completely. Also, the electronic controls are very complicated and difficult to trouble-shoot but marvelous in what they can do. I would buy this machine again - I didn't even price other makes."

"I wish manufacturers would make new

corn heads to fit older machines," says Tom Brandt, Plymouth, Neb., pleased with his 1981 Gleaner M-2.

"Although this old girl is 11 years old and I hold my breath while operating her, who can justify the cost of a new \$150,000 combine?" asks Tom Sidenbender, Rockford, Ohio, who owns a 1980 Massey Ferguson 750. "I'm satisfied with it but the header is a source of continuous problems - broken sickle sections, guards, etc. I think part of the problem is that we're still using a sickle to cut beans that was invented 100 years ago. I put an Easy-Cut sickle and guards on 2 years ago. It's much more trouble-free than the original but doesn't do the job any better."

"We replaced the steering axle with a Mud Hog drive axle," says Mike Hirschman, Ithaca, Mich., who owns a 1981 IH 1460. "It turned it into a 4-WD - gets us through muddy conditions."

"I modified my 1980 Deere 6620 according to suggestions by the late combine expert Ray Stueckle. We changed the concaves by closing off the first four grates and then trued the cylinder. We also removed the "fish backs" and moved the fan blades out to the edge of the cut off, all according to Stueckle's recommendations (Stueckle's books still available from: Stueckle Publications, P.O. Box 1323, Caldwell, Idaho 83605). We also added a grain loss monitor from Dickey John and a fan speed adjustment control, which lets me adjust the fan on the go, from Air Design (P.O. Box 248, Scooby, Mont. 59263). I fitted the 222 grain head with a Cheney pickup reel (Cheney Weeder Inc., P.O. Box 232, Spokane, Wash. 99210) and fitted the 853 row crop header with an automatic chain tightener from Shoup Manufacturing (145 S. West Ave., Kankakee, Ill. 60901). Everything has worked out great, improving capacity and performance," says Roy E. Pfaltzgraff, Haxton, Colo.

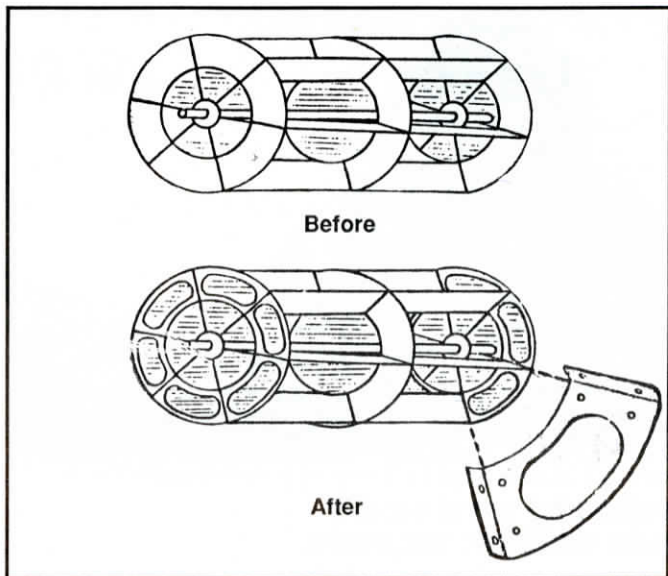
Phil Thoma, Jesup, Iowa, owns a 1991 Case/IH 1660. "It has plenty of power and, after 300 hrs., we've had no problems. However, we need a better way to adjust the sieves - I don't like crawling in the back to adjust them. With the chaff spreader we added on the back it is hard to get inside."

David L. Moyer, Powhatan, Virg., is happy with the capacity and cleaning ability of his 1980 Deere 7720 but he has a complaint about the machine. "It has hydrostatic 4-WD and the biggest problem I have is keeping the 4 drive belts that drive the torque converter tight. When I go up hills in 3rd or 4th gear I experience a good bit of slippage in the belts. On the other hand, I've been real pleased with the headers, especially this year because we had a lot of morning glory vines that went right through the corn head without plugging."

"We fitted it with an air foil chaffer and a Ray Stueckle-designed concave. Both work great," says Byron T. Hovorka, Hemingford, Neb., about his Deere 6600 combine.

"We're happy with our 1987 Deere 7721 pull-type because it never quits. Does a good job on all our crops including wheat, barley, canola, flax and lentils. The only limiting factor on this combine, as on most machines, is the straw walkers," says Jeff Kirkham, Saltcoats, Sask.

"It's the most comfortable and productive combine I've ever driven," says Gregg Cunningham, Ligonier, Ind., about his 1991 Deere 9400. "Has tremendous power and capacity. The electric-over-hydraulic switches take the fatigue out of a long day of combining. The corn and grainheads are the



Case/IH axial flow combines are equipped with a paddle type clean grain fan that draws air in from ends of fan. Conversion kit greatly increases air intake area.

INCREASES CLEANING FAN'S AIR INTAKE AREA BY OVER 75%

"Open-End" Fan Kit For IH Combines

"Our new 'E-Z Flow' fan kits increase the air intake area of the cleaning fan on International and Case-IH combines by over 75%, allowing the fan to breathe more freely under high rpm conditions," says Lenny Hill, Hillco Co., Nezperce, Idaho.

Hill says the fan kit solves a problem that exists on all International and Case-IH axial flow combines, including both the 1400 and 1600 series.

"These combines are equipped with a paddle-type clean grain fan that has to draw all of its air in from a single opening on each end of the fan. The problem is that as the speed of the cleaning fan exceeds 700 to 750 rpm's, the open area isn't big enough to allow enough air to reach the center of the fan. This 'starving' for air creates a dead air space on the chaffer sieve resulting in overloading of the lower clean grain sieve. This overloading leads to higher return volumes and poorer clean grain quality in the grain tank. In many conditions you'll often find chaff and other light material in your grain tank regardless of fan speed.

"Our fan kit consists of 12 fan dividers with open centers. They are built of heavier material than are the original dividers and are a balanced set to ensure proper balance of the cleaning fan. They replace the 12 original fan blade dividers found on the ends of the cleaning fan. This increased air intake area boosts air velocity on the shoe and results in more even air distribution across the entire sieve. It also keeps grain out of the cleaning fan housing and significantly reduces bearding of the chaffer sieve."

Hill says the benefits of the fan kit are especially evident at fan speeds over 750 rpm's. "However, we've also had good response from small seed harvesters operating at much lower fan rpm's. We've used it mostly on wheat, barley, lentils, and peas. We haven't used it yet on corn or soybeans."

The kit takes about two hours to install. Sells for \$295.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hillco, 107 First Avenue, Box 399, Nezperce, Idaho 83543-0399 (ph 208 937-2461).

best on the market. Header control is good and the 'fore and aft' reel is a good option. A few complaints are that the air conditioning controls are in a bad location, the chaff spreader doesn't spread chaff evenly in soybeans, and the sieves are hard to adjust. I also wish Deere would offer a lateral head adjustment for wide grainheads in hilly ground. Our dealer installed a Maurer grain tank extension (Bob Maurer, Rt. 2, Sutherland, Iowa 51058). It's now one of the best features on the combine. The sides of the extension are tapered so they don't extend up as high as some extensions."

"Our 1987 Case/IH 1660 has 1,600 hrs. on it but we've only had to stop three times, and then only for small repairs. That's important to us - lets us get work done in time. This is an excellent corn machine and you get quality grain, especially in wet corn. It's easy to maintain because everything is

in the open and easy to get at to inspect. I would like to see a variable header speed control and a bigger engine because it lacks power in hills. It's fitted with a 1980 Deere 630 cornhead that's still running fine. We ridge-till so we put 'Straddle Duals' on so we could use narrower tires and not beat down our ridges. We also equipped it with a Viiteto chaff spreader because the machine originally laid down two concentrated rows of chaff," says Lyle Heinrichs, Shickley, Neb.

"We're satisfied with our 1988 Massey 8560. Very little grain damage and it has a lot less moving parts than other rotaries meaning less downtime. Would like to see a hydraulic unloading auger to do away with even more belts, gears and bearings," says Bruce Barrett, Chrisman, Ill., adding that he would buy a new MF 8570 if he were in the market for a new machine.