

# Shell Ear Corn With Your Combine

By Mark Jacobs, Associate Editor

FARM SHOW did some checking to track down suppliers of machines and attachments for shelling cribbed ear corn. We contacted several veteran corn sheller manufacturers who are still "going strong". We also visited with a company that offers a feed grinder-mixer with a factory-installed corn shelling attachment, and tracked down recently-developed attachments that let you shell corn with your self-propelled combine.

A spokesman for Deere & Company reports that "the introduction of corn heads for combines and the ease of handling and storing of shelled corn led to the downfall of the stationary sheller." Deere discontinued their No. 43 and No. 71 corn shellers sometime in the late 1950's.

Dexter Paulsen, sales planning manager for White Farm Equipment Co., says White discontinued the Model 1210 sheller made by Minneapolis Moline sometime in the early 1970's. He notes that with so few corn cribs and corn pickers, they don't even get requests for shellers.

New Idea, manufacturer of corn pickers and self-propelled harvesters, has shellers available for their systems but never has offered a stationary sheller, according to David List, product planning manager for the company. He adds that despite the recent interest in crib filling, the company doesn't have any plans to develop a stationary sheller.

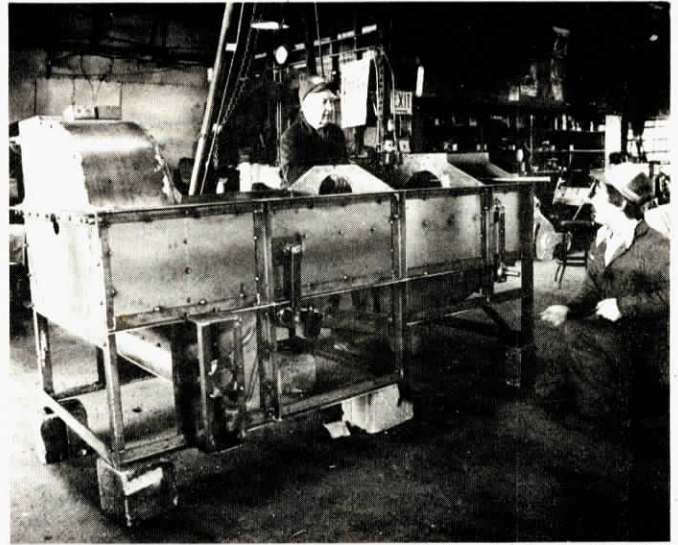


Photo courtesy Farmland Industries

Custom-built Cook corn shellers are available in 3 sizes with up to a 2,000 bu./hr. capacity.

## The Cook Sheller

Marvin Cook, owner of Cook Machine Co., Washington, Ill., reports that his company custom builds 800, 1,800 and 2,000 bu./hr. shellers.

The shellers take six to ten weeks to complete and include a 15 ft. feed-in elevator, a 20 ft. cob elevator and a 9 ft. shelled corn elevator.

The 1,800 bu./hr. unit is 9 ft. 2 in.

long, 3½ ft. wide and sells for \$27,000. Cook says the units can be truck mounted for custom shelling, or they can be powered by gas or diesel engines, electric motors or pto.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cook Machine Shop, R.R. 2, Washington, Ill. 61571 (ph 309 444-4168).



The attachment fits in place of the corn head so you can use your combine to shell cribbed corn.

## The "Ken-Shell" Attachment

Minnesota farmer Ken Kass, of Tracy, modified his Deere 7700 combine to serve as a stationary 600 to 800 bu./hr. sheller — without affecting its regular field performance or resale value.

First, he designed a frame that fits around the throat of the combine, with the corn head removed. To the "hopper" created by the frame, he attached sections of old sheller drags which feed corn into the combine. They're powered with a variable speed orbit motor, activated by the combine's hydraulic system. The variable speed control in the cab sets speed of the drag.

An auger system below the discharge end of the combine, powered by an orbital motor, transports cobs from below the rear of the combine to a pile alongside. Auger speed is determined by an independent variable speed control.

Kass, who has shelled about 6,000

bu. of ear corn in each of the last five years, has decided to put the unit into commercial production. "We haven't changed a thing over the years and feel that other farmers who already own a combine will find it useful. My neighbors have used it with no trouble at all," says Kass. He cites these advantages of the sheller attachment:

- It allows you the benefits of keeping some ear corn without the added cost of a sheller or custom shelling.

- The Ken-Shell is easy to use. "One man alone can attach it in ten minutes, without even using a wrench. There are no bolts or pins to fool with."

- Only cost of using the unit is the fuel required by the combine.

- You only need one truck. The capacity of the combine's hopper allows you to keep shelling while transporting shelled corn to the bin.

- For small amounts, you can use



The auger moves cobs, as they pile up, from under the combine.

the combine as a "truck". Kass often shells a small batch before chores, then unhooks the sheller attachment and fills feeders direct from the combine.

- Ear corn can be fed directly into the combine throat with a skid-steer loader, if desired by dropping off the drags.

Kass is lining up a manufacturer. He notes that the first models will fit Deere and International combines. Dealer inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Kass, Rt. 2, Box 156, Tracy, Minn. 56175 (ph 507 629-3405).



Conveyor reaches into long cribs.