



Tractor-sized drive wheels turn any direction for easy maneuverability.

TOTALLY HYDROSTATIC, IT RAISES UP AND DOWN TO FIT CROP

Vegetable Crop Picker Travels Down The Road

"Thirteen workers can now do the work of 30," says Wayne Vogel, Fremont, Mich., manufacturer of a mammoth new hand pick harvesting machine that's unlike anything on the market.

FARM SHOW readers may remember Vogel, who built his own articulated combine from the ground up (Vol. 7, No. 3) and who also built a huge 20-ton manure spreader for a neighbor (Vol. 8, No. 4). Since our last report, Vogel has left farming and gone into the manufacturing and fabricating business. He designs and builds huge harvesting equipment for carrots, onions, and other vegetable crops and has begun producing his new hand-pick crop machine.

It's unique in that its wheels pivot from row-crop configuration at the push of a lever to travel down the road at 12 mph. Also, the picking platform, which consists of a variable speed conveyor, can be adjusted in height to adapt to a variety of crops.

Many farmers in the diversified crop area of western Michigan often pick crops like squash and cucumbers into pails and bags which are then dumped into wagons. Vogel says his machine is the first in the area to automate the process.

Easy New Way To "Unplug" Combines

That electric-over-hydraulic header reverser kit we told you about nearly two years ago is still "selling like hotcakes" according to manufacturer Ed Mitzimberg, Garfield, Wash.

Distributed nationwide by Best Way, Inc., Clear Lake, Iowa, the reverser kit is now available to fit a wide range of machines. "When we first developed it, we concentrated on Deere hillside combines, the most popular combine in our area. We now make kits to fit all International 1440, 1460 and 1480 combines and all Deere 4400, 6600 and 7700 series combines. We also fit Gleaser M, F

"Workers are happier because they're more productive. And the owner's happy because he saves as much as \$1,500 a day in labor costs," says Vogel.

The machine consists of two heavy-built drive units that arch over the conveyor platform. The four drive wheels turn hydraulically to travel in any direction. Hydraulic 2-way cylinders driving heavy chain provide the steering. The picking platform is 60-ft. long and the elevator at one end extends another 15 ft. to dump into a wagon. The machine is 75 ft. in total length for road travel but easily makes corners because of the all-wheel steer and drive.

The machine is powered by a 50 hp. Avco diesel engine and is fitted with two hydrostatic pumps for the drive system and one pressure sensitive pump to power auxiliary systems.

Vogel's machine sells for \$35,000 to \$40,000, depending on options.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Vogel, 12191 Maple Island Road, Fremont, Mich. 49412 (ph 616 924-5803).

and H combines as well as many other miscellaneous makes and models of machines," Mitzimberg told FARM SHOW.

The header reverser kit essentially reverses the hydraulic reel drive pump so that it runs in reverse, backing out any material that may be plugging the feederhouse or feeder auger.

"It'll reverse everything from the feederhouse on out to the combine reel," says Mitzimberg who began manufacturing the kit after a local farmer came up with the idea.

The kit taps into the reel drive with



Powered by the chopper drive, the Redekop chaff blower drops chaff directly onto top of straw windrow.

Redekop Chaff Blower-Cyclone Combination

"Our cyclone gently lays the chaff on top of the straw, allowing you to bale it along with the straw so you can increase the straw's feed value while removing the chaff from the field," says Leo Redekop, Saskatoon, Sask., inventor of a new chaff blower-cyclone combination. "By baling the chaff with the straw, you get up to 20% more bales."

The chaff blower is the same blower that Redekop uses to blow chaff into trailing wagons. With this new system, he adds a cyclone off the end of the blower to drop chaff directly on the straw windrow. The cyclone takes out the air pressure, allowing the chaff to fall. A canvas chute added to the bottom of the cyclone

keeps the wind from blowing chaff away.

The blower is powered by the chopper drive. A 10-in. dia. auger installed behind the sieves picks up chaff and carries it to the 22-in. fan that blows chaff to the cyclone.

Redekop says the system will fit virtually any combine using existing holes.

Complete systems sell for \$3,600 (Canadian). The cyclone can be bought separately if you already have the blower.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Redekop Chaff Systems, R.R. 4, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 3J7 (ph 306 931-6664).

Grant Chaff Handler

The new Grant Chaff Handler attachment allows chaff to be salvaged and dispensed with the straw.

The key advantage, says inventor Grant Gulleon, of Rutland, N. Dak., is that the chaff is mixed with the straw in the windrow, increasing the straw's feed value to livestock. Plus, if you spread straw, the chaff is spread along with it.

Another advantage of the attachment, says Gulleon, is that it eliminates the narrow band of chaff that can retard plant growth in no-till cropping conditions.

The Chaff Handler, manufactured by Lee Way Mfg., Foreman, N. Dak., features two, 2-ft. long augers that carry chaff to the center of the device

and to a 16-in. dia., fan. The fan blows chaff into straw as it comes off the straw walker and moves into the straw chopper. Gulleon notes that running the chaff through the straw chopper cracks weed seeds in the chaff so they don't sprout.

The Chaff Handler is powered off the straw chopper. Gulleon says that he hasn't had any problems with the straw chopper being able to handle the chaff. He adds that the unit can also handle residue from sunflowers and corn allowing it to be left on the combine for all crops.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Way Mfg., Foreman, N. Dak. 58032 (ph 701 724-6216).

a diverter valve that turns it into a pump. A set of extra hoses reroutes the diverted fluid. A control mounts in the cab next to the clutch. To activate the reverse, you simply push the control lever.

The reverser kit ranges in price

from \$700 to \$995, depending on the model.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Best Way, Inc., Clear Lake, Iowa 50428 (ph toll-free 800 247 1045 or 515 357-6155).