



Von Muenster mounted an electronic weigh scale under each corner of the grain hopper on drill. He raised the tank about 1 in. to put the weight on the load cells. He has also fitted a Case-IH drill with a scale kit, and plans to fit other models.

"IT'S ABOUT 99.5% ACCURATE"

Drill "Weigh Scale" For Planting Beans

One of the biggest problems farmers face in using grain drills to plant soybeans and small grains is getting the drill set at the right seed population. Ken Von Muenster of Anamosa, Iowa, says he's solved the problem by mounting four electronic weigh scales on his Deere 750 drill. He put one weigh unit under each corner of the hopper.

"It lets me know how much seed is left in the grain tank at all times and is about 99.5% accurate in setting seeds per acre," says Von Muenster. "Conventional population monitors are only 80 to 90% accurate when used with beans."

The scale kit has a capacity of 10,000 lbs. and operates off the tractor's 12-volt battery. The kit consists of four 1 1/2-in. dia. load cells, electric wiring, and two digital readouts - one mounted in the tractor cab and one on the drill. Von Muenster used 2-in. sq. steel tubing, 1/2 by 2 1/2-in. flat steel, and 6-in. channel iron to make brackets to bolt the cells onto the drill frame under each corner of the tank. He raised the tank about 1 in. to put the weight on the load cells. He didn't have to drill any holes on the drill.

"It gives me peace of mind when planting because I know that I'm not over or under planting," says Von Muenster. "To calibrate the drill I check the weigh scale after planting three or four acres and then check the reading against my acre counter. For example, a reading of 4.11 acres on the acre counter and 375 lbs. on the scale means I've planted 91.24 lbs. of seed per acre. If I want

to drill 85 lbs. per acre, I simply set the drill sprockets down 6 lbs.

"It's highly accurate. I tested it on 100 units of soybeans last spring and found that it was off only .2 tenths of a unit.

"I paid \$1,500 for the scale units and spent about \$175 on the mounting brackets for a total cost of \$1,675, including my labor. I do some custom planting of beans with bulk seed and I think it'll pay for itself in seed savings in only one year. If I plant 10% over desired population I'm spending an extra \$2.50 per acre on seed. On 500 acres the cost savings is \$1,250. Another advantage is that it lets me finish up a job for a customer without having to use small bags. I can keep planting after business hours at night when the truck scales in town aren't open and I can't weigh my bulk tender. The scale read-out has a backlight for night weighing. Also, not having to go back and check the level of seed in the drill eliminates the chance of slipping and getting hurt while getting on or off the drill."

Von Muenster plans to market a do-it-yourself kit. Sells for \$1,695 to fit a Deere drill. Kits will also be available for other models. He has already installed one on a Case-IH drill and is working on a Great Plains. He expects the weigh system to work as well with wheat and other small grains.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Von Muenster, Scale-Tec, 16027 Hwy. 64, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 (ph 319 462-2344).



Chopper mounts ahead of baler pickup and will handle three 30-in. rows. It's powered by its own pto-driven gearbox so it can be used on a variety of crops.

LETS YOU CHOP AND BALE CORN STALKS OR HAY IN ONE PASS

Baler-Mounted Chopper Handles Hay Or Stalks

"It lets you chop and bale corn stalks in one pass as well as hay and other crops in windrows," says Cory Westhoff, project engineer with Heartland Mfg., Inc., New Vienna, Iowa, about the company's new baler-mounted chopper that mounts ahead of the baler pickup.

The new model 669 Crop Processor is a complete redesign of the company's original add-on shredder introduced 8 years ago. The older model 561 shredder - which is still on the market - is chain-driven off the main baler drive and handles two 38 or 30-in. rows of corn stalks or soybean stubble. Both machines use reversible flail knives. The new Crop Processor is 69 in. wide, has an adjustable shear bar, and will handle three 30-in. rows as well as windrows. Powered by its own gearbox, it can be used on other crops such as hay, oatlage, rye grass, etc., and it cuts the crops into an average 4 to 6-in. lengths depending upon many variables.

"We've tested three machines for one year with great reviews from the operators," says Westhoff. Twelve additional machines were built to use this fall. "We demonstrated the Crop Processor mounted on a Deere 566 round baler at the recent Farm Progress Show near Amana, Iowa. We made 1,800 to 2,100-lb. wet corn stalk bales that were 4 ft. 10 in. tall and 5 ft. wide. These bales were silage wrapped for feed. Farmers were impressed with how fast we could make bales and with the short cut length and density of the bale.

"The main use for corn stalks has been bedding, but corn stalks are also used as feed. With the Crop Processor the baler pickup is raised above stalk height, instead of running on the ground, therefore dirt is not pulled up into the bale, making a better feed or bedding product. The flail knives cut and deliver the crop into the pickup area. Plus, the Crop Processor picks up some lost grain from the field which gets mixed in with the stalks and stubble. And you save time by being able to chop and bale in a single pass. The short cut lengths create denser,



Chopper shown mounted on Deere 566 round baler. Note storage tube for extra twine and silage wrap, a product that is also manufactured by Heartland.

heavier bales, saving storage space and handling time.

"Our Crop Processor can be used to make either dry or silage hay bales. Dry bales can possibly be used in TMR mixer wagons instead of tub grinding. Due to cut length, the number of cut ends, and the higher density of the bale, the silage process is also improved.

A gearbox and Gates Polychain GT belt drive unit mount on the baler hitch to power the Crop Processor. A pto shaft from the hitch to the rotor housing has its own slip clutch. Another Polychain belt-drives the rotor up to 2,400 rpm's. The new-style Deere flail knives cut and throw with decreased horsepower requirements. The hitch is extended 2 ft. to make room for the gearbox. A forming shield under the hitch helps guide windrows into the Crop Processor. A pair of cylinders adjusts the rotor height on-the-go. It takes a minimum of a 100 hp tractor.

At this time the Crop Processor fits Deere 535 and 566 round balers. The machine is patented and sold exclusively through Deere dealers. The Crop Processor will be introduced to dealers in February of 1997. Prices are currently being set.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heartland Mfg. Inc., 6869 Columbus St., Box 5, New Vienna, Iowa 52065 (ph 319 921-2265).

weighed 1,500 lbs. apiece.

"You can turn on a dime because you don't have to move forward in order to turn as with a conventional tractor. Makes it easy to load bales in tight spots. The loader bolts onto the tractor frame and clamps onto the rear axle housing. The original handrail grips alongside the steps interfered with the raising and lowering of the loader so we

have to replace them with a modified handrail," says Caterpillar ag sales manager Craig Pottberg.

The loader sells for about \$14,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Craig Pottberg, Nebraska Machinery Co., 10501 S. Hwy. 281, Doniphan, Neb. 68832 (ph 402 845-6503).



Front-End Loader Fits Cat Challenger

A new loader designed for rubber-tracked Caterpillar tractors lets you get more use out of the innovative and highly maneuverable tracked rigs, says Nebraska Machinery Co., Doniphan, Neb., a Caterpillar dealer that recently began offering modified Leon front-end loaders to fit

Challenger 35, 45, and 55 row crop tractors.

At the recent Husker Harvest Days, the dealer displayed a Caterpillar 45 equipped with a Leon loader and grapple fork holding a single bale. It also had a 3-pt. spear holding two bales. The three 6-ft. high bales