"BOOSTS CAPACITY UP TO 50%"

Grain "Diverter" For Axial Flow Combines

"Every owner of a 1400 Series IH Axial Flow combine understands the need for this diverter as soon as they see it," says Steve Ficklin, inventor and manufacturer of a new grain diverter designed to spread out the flow of grain to conveying augers that carry grain from concaves to sieves.

"When grain comes off the concaves it overloads the first and second conveying augers and doesn't fill the third and fourth augers. The problem is worst on sidehills that slope to the right. Many farmers have to slow down to half speed or slower because all the grain pours onto one side which overloads the sieves. They can go twice as fast on hills that slope to the left because grain spreads out much more evenly over all four conveying augers," says Ficklin, noting that one way to tell if you have a problem is to look at the fourth auger on your combine. He says many still have paint in the tray indicating a lack of use.

The new diverter plate is designed to spread the flow of grain out evenly over all four conveying augers no matter what the terrain. It fastens with two bolts to a pipe brace that runs across the width of the combine. No drilling or modification is required. As grain comes off the rotor and passes through the concaves, it slides down the diverter to the conveying augers. The lower end of the diverter plate rests in the auger tray. It has one adjustment which lets you move it back and forth to even out the distribution. The plate is 32 in. wide at the top and 5 in. wide at the bottom.

"In many cases farmers are only using one-half of the sieve-cleaning area. Once the diverter is installed, grain loss is reduced and capacity increased," notes Ficklin who's sold the diverter plate locally for 4 years "without a complaint. Farmers have tried other methods to solve the problem such as installing rubber auger flaps on the conveying augers to throw grain to the other augers, or putting filler plates in the concave to even out the flow of grain, but nothing works as well as this method. Takes just 15 min. to install."

Diverter plate quickly installs between concave and conveying augers.

Ficklin's grain diverter sells for $49.95, and fits all 1400 Series combines. Each model requires a different sized unit.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ficklin Machine Co., Inc., 209 West Grant, Onarga, Ill. 60955 (ph 815 268-7826).

Old Combine Powers 37-Ft. Swather

Saskatchewan farmer Brian Olson has given new life to a worn-out 1974 self-propelled combine. He converted in into a split-deck, 37-ft. wide swather.

"Because this part of the country is so dry, yields are usually too low to make use of all the capacity of a big, self-propelled combine. What's the use of having a large, expensive combine if it's not used to its potential? I also could have bought a big 50-ft. wide swather but they're impractical on our rocky, hilly land and I hate to have that big an investment sitting around 51 weeks a year," Olson told FARM SHOW.

In building the machine, Olson started with a 5542 White combine powered by a 318 Chrysler industrial engine that he bought, minus the pickup platform, for $2,000. A used 21-ft. Hesston grain table with manual shift table and split sickle drive mounts directly on the combine and dumps to the right side. A used 16-ft. Deere 190 swather trails behind and the right of the combine and dumps to the left, atop the Hesston swath.

"The up-front Hesston swather pivots independently of the combine, riding on it's own ¾-ton truck springs. The combine feederhouse slip clutch also acts as the slip clutch for the swather. I can take the swather off by undoing a hydraulic hose, pulling 4 pins, and undoing a pto coupler.

"The rear swather is pulled by a gooseneck hitch. The steering action of the rear power unit wheels keeps its swath in alignment with the front swath. It has steering rams on its wheels. These are controlled from the cab. The operator can place the rear swath on top or beside the front swath. The swather can be fully turned to pull lengthwise behind the combine for transport.

"Because the swathers operate independently, you can swing the rear swather in behind and shut it off and continue swathing with the front 21-ft. swather if you run into a particularly heavy field.

"The back swather is powered by a 15-hp. hydraulic motor which we use on a grain auger after we finish swathing."

Olson also uses the powered self-propelled combine unit to carry an 85-ft. boom sprayer with a 400 gal. spray tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Olson, Box 386, Tompkins, Sask. Canada SON 2SO (ph 306 622-4301).

Latest Corn Harvester Special-Built For Mud

"It's the only machine I've ever seen that'll harvest corn in 2 ft. or more of standing water," says Eugene Carlson, president of EK Premium Seeds, Berwick, Ill., who came up with the idea for a new "all-terrain" corn picker special-built for tough conditions.

Manufactured by Ag-Chem Equipment Corp., a company that's known for its big custom applicator floater rigs, the new harvester was built from the ground up with Deere & Co. parts, including axles, cab, header, snapper units, and many other components. Key to success of the 4-WD rig, powered by a 234 Cummins engine, is its huge, 5½-ft. wide up-front drive tires and 4-ft. wide rear steering tires. They allow the machine to keep moving without bogging down even in deep mud.

Because the new harvester is designed to pick corn with the husks left on, it contains no husking beds or many of the other cleaning components that make other pickers and combines heavy. The machine is primarily geared for sweet corn producers, who pick with the husks on, and seed corn producers many of whom have begun to pick corn that way to reduce damage. But Carlson says other farmers, with no other way to salvage a standing difficult-to-harvest corn crop, have also expressed interest in the machine.

Corn is picked by a standard 6 or 12-row Deere head and conveyed by a big 5-ft. wide conveyor to a trailing wagon or truck. There's no grain tank on the unit itself. It contains two air blast blowers to clean stalks and leaf debris from the ears.

"In some areas in Minnesota this year fields were so wet there were ducks in the field ahead of harvesting crews," says Carlson, who notes that on-time harvesting is particularly critical in both sweet corn and seed corn because of the danger of damage from both frost and moisture. "This machine also has tremendous capacity. We're able to harvest at 5 mph versus 2½ mph with a conventional machine because of the no-plug design."

New corn harvester picks directly into 4-WD truck.

Ag-Chem senior engineer Norm Bauer told FARM SHOW the machine is in production and that several were in the field this summer and fall.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag-Chem Equipment Co. Inc., 4900 Viking Drive, Mpls., Minn. 55435 (ph 612 835-2476).