

LETS YOU CHECK CYLINDER AND CLEANING FAN RPM'S ON OLDER MODELS

"Low Speed" Tach Great For Combines

"We needed a tachometer to sell along with our speed adjustment kit for Deere combine cleaning fans. We couldn't find what we needed so we built our own," says Barry Harmon, Air Design, Scobey, Mont.

Harmon told FARM SHOW that most of the tachs on the market read in hundreds or thousands, too high for combine applications. He couldn't find one that reads in 10's.

The tach sensor he built can be mounted on anything that turns. It counts the revolutions of an 18-tooth gear and sends the readout to a small monitor that can be

mounted anywhere. "All Deere combines since 1979, and most other recent makes and models, come factory-equipped with cleaning fan and cylinder tachometers. We've seen the most demand from farmers operating older machines who want to buy our cleaning fan kit that lets you adjust speed from the cab. However, this tach could be used for any application around the farm," says Harmon, who sells the low-speed tach for \$159.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Air Design, Box 248, Scobey, Mont. 59263 (ph 406 487-2263).

George Brandt, Garnavillo, Iowa, has had good luck with his 1978 Deere 6600 side-hill combine. "We're satisfied except for breakage problems with the main counter-shaft and bearings that go out. Capacity on hillsides is quite good which is why we bought it. Performance is quite good for the size of the combine. Would like to see an idiot light or automatic shutdown device installed for oil pressure and water temperature. I put an SED grain loss monitor on it that works well. The dealer put some extra tinwork on the sieves to keep grain from spilling out the fan, and this has helped that problem."

Joseph Cersovski, Harrisburg, Ore., owns two 1973 Massey Ferguson 760 combines and a 1984 Massey Ferguson 860. "They all perform well with a minimum of breakdowns. They're easy to get to for maintenance and the 6-cyl. Perkins engines are very fuel efficient. One of the biggest problems with the 760 combines is the way damp grass wraps around the paddles in the feederhouse. The chain feederhouse on the 860 is far superior. The 760's also need longer straw walkers. The 860 is better in this respect but they're still not long enough."

"We've owned four different Deere 7720 combines since 1979 and have never had a major breakdown with any of these machines. Our last 7720, bought in 1984, now has 1,000 hrs. on it and the most serious thing we've repaired was an "O" ring on the hydrostatic drive pump. I'd like to see them improve the reel height control when using the straight head. It sticks off to the left-hand side of the steering column so that you have to use your left hand to adjust it while trying to steer and adjust the platform height with your right hand. One accessory we've installed is a Bish grain tank extension," says Rodney Sell, Guelph, N. Dak.

"Our 1983 International 1440 combine does a good job threshing and is extremely reliable. The cornhead does a good job, too. I put black plastic drain tile on the grain reel bats to help keep soybeans from wrapping the reel. One thing I'd like to see is increased engine horsepower," says Richard Peterson, St. Edward, Neb.

"I buy Gleaner combines for two reasons. One, they're easy to work on because nearly all parts are easy to get at. Two, I like the

"These combines are easy to work on and nearly all parts are easy to get at."

rock door which works great," says Alan Bahn, Pipestone, Minn., who currently owns a 1980 F-2 Gleaner. "The cab is a little on the plain side but very functional. The concave-to-cylinder clearance adjustment could be a little easier and faster to change and the 95 to 100 bu. grain tank is not big enough. We added a Herschel Tiger Jaws cutterbar to the bean head. Not sure if it's done any good or not."

Bill J. Smith, Frankfort, Ind., owns 1979, 1980 and 1982 Deere 7720's. "I'm satisfied with all three machines. I believe they'll cover more acres and do a better job than any other machine on the market. They hold up remarkably well. I'd like to see a safety feature to prevent rocks from getting to the cylinder, however."

"We've been very happy with the performance and capacity of our 1975

Gleaner L combine. Bearings and belts are easily accessible for maintenance but one problem is that it's hard to change the bypass oil filter. The cornhead is also hard to work on. Too many chains. Newer models have improved on this. We made one modification to prevent damage from plug-ups. We installed a 30 by 56-in. hinge door in the back of the combine above the straw chopper so that if the chopper plugs up it will push straw out the back door. We installed a microswitch with a beeper in the cab to let us know if the door opens. Door also makes it easy to check or unplug the straw walkers," says Garry Swetz, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Lyman Lanpher, Onslow, Iowa, has been generally satisfied with his 1982 International 1460 Axial Flow. "I like the way the rotor first spins the crop, using centrifugal force to separate it. I also like the cornhead because it makes chiseling easier by cutting up the stalks. However, they should give us a faster way to adjust the lower end of the stalk rolls to make the knives cut better. Also, I added a smaller sprocket beside the regular elevator drive sprocket to slow the elevator 50% when harvesting soybean seed. And I built a hood behind the straw spreader to get a wider spread. Wish the company would put a handle on each corner of the windshield to hold onto when you clean it. And they could save some money by removing all that fancy tin hanging on each side."

"We're happy with our 1978 Deere 7700, in part because we've modified it with accessories and ideas we've read about in FARM SHOW. Many of the improvements have since been made on newer machines," says George Hitchner, Bridgeton, N.J.

C. Smith, Prince Albert, Sask., is happy with his 1977 Deere 4400D. "Easy handling, good power, comfortable cab, handy controls, good lighting, and easy maintenance except that you have to remove the seat to open the hatch. It's also not easy to unplug the cylinder. I've installed a Smith-Roles grain loss monitor. Still getting used to it but it helps with combine settings. The cylinder speed adjustment chains are prone to falling off and the exhaust pipe should be farther from the cab as the fumes can be drawn inside."

"I bought this 1984 Deere 7720 used with 450 hrs. on it and I've put 300 hrs. on it without a minute of downtime. Works great. I'm very satisfied with the cornhead but the 220 flex head should have plastic fingers on the reel bats so when they go into the knife they cut off instead of breaking the knife sections. Also, the fore and aft adjustment of the reel should be by crank or hydraulics for quicker adjusting. I also wish cleaning fan speed was changeable from the cab. One change I make when harvesting edible beans is to remove the tube from the auger in the bin so as too not mud up the beans. This works very well even though you can only fill the bin half full. It makes a lot of difference in the quality of the bean sample," says Ray Brown, Goderich, Ontario.

"This machine works so well, I don't need to make the investment in a newer machine," says Jerry L. Allen, Richmond, Ind., about his 1975 International 915. "I especially like the way the 863 cornhead handles the stalks. The head leaves stalks in excellent condition for fall disk-chiseling."

Gilbert Lindstrom, Sterling, Colo., owns 1975 and 1971 Deere 6600 combines. "We bought the '75 used with 2,300 hrs. on it and have cut about 6,000 acres of wheat and corn with it at a cost of only about \$1 per acre for

repairs, much of which was needed at purchase. We use them on 1,500 acres of wheat and corn but they're probably worth less than \$15,000 for the two of them."

"We're more or less satisfied with our 1984 Massey Ferguson 860. Sometimes the return auger plugs up and it'll also throw grain over the walkers in a heavy crop. It could have a quieter cab and we have some trouble with the knife breaking just beyond where the head rivets to it. Should be made from stronger material," says Mark Weber, Meota, Sask.

"We're not happy with our International 1460 Axial Flow," says Ralph Ransom, Enid, Okla. "We have problems with too much material going over the sieves when the straw gets dry. We also have trouble knocking grain out of the head when the straw is tough. We plan to overhaul it and possibly install longer fingers at the back of the grain pan and an air deflector on the bottom sieve to help lift the chaff so wheat can more easily fall through."

Rene Sylvestre, Stoney Point, Ontario, owns a 1983 Massey Ferguson 860. "We like it because the company does a good job with parts and service. They could, however, improve the top sieve so beans don't fall into the fan. This is a problem that my dealer cannot fix for one reason or another. Also, the steering wheels do not track the drive wheels. I'd like to see them in the middle of the track of the drive wheels but the axle is not long enough. One other complaint is that the company should come out with a kit to stop wheat straw from wrapping around the bottom pulley of the grain head on the left hand side."

"Our 1981 Gleaner L-2 is a good machine with enough power to get the job done in muddy conditions. We're very satisfied with the 6-row cornhead and the 20-ft. grainhead with floating cutterbar. Does a great job in soybeans but I don't like the plastic fingers on the reel. They're too brittle. Would also like to see an easier way to set the concave. I put 18.4 by 42 Kirchner Straddle Duals (Kirchner Wheel Inc., Dundee, Minn. 56126 ph 507 468-2451) on the combine. They're a 100% improvement over 30.5 by 32 rice tires."

Les Mauthe, Walderser, Manitoba, likes his 1982 International 1482. "It has good capacity and does little damage to the grain. Easy to service and less moving parts. The grain auger could be longer to facilitate on-the-go unloading. I had to shorten the rod that holds the concave as I couldn't 'zero'

the rotor-to-concave clearance. I just cut a portion of the rod out and rewelded it."

"Our 1985 New Holland TR85 does a good job of threshing and is quiet running. I think that a straw walker would help separate small grains, especially wheat, from the straw when conditions are damp," says Richard Meier, Bowling Green, Ohio.

Darrell Darr, Dodge Center, Minn., has had good luck with his 1980 Deere 8820. "It's very dependable. It'll have over 15,000 acres of corn and soybeans through it by the end of this season and we've spent very little on it. I believe, though, that they should speed up the straw walkers, which would help prevent override at the walkers. Deere has increased the size and capacity of the grain elevator since I bought mine. I like the electric switches for header controls on International combines better than the hydraulics on the Deere. I've added a Dickey John grain loss monitor and put a Tiger Jaws sickle and Hart Carter plastic tines on the reel. Both changes work fine. I'm having the rasp bars and concave rebuilt, and the chopper knife hardened and balanced by Clarence Trimpe (Junction U.S. 31 & 50, Seymour, Ind. 47274 ph 812 522-1398). I learned about the 'Trimpe Treatment' from FARM SHOW."

"We're still pleased with the performance of our 1973 Massey Ferguson 410 but it's a fire hazard. The engine compartment has caught fire twice, once while in transport before it was even in the field. Maintenance could be easier since too many things are either impossible to get to or hard to get off to replace," says Mike Webster, Wyaconda, Mo.

"We put plastic skids on the bottom of our bean heads to prevent mud buildup and they work great," says Jeff Potter, Redwood Falls, Minn., happy with a 1983 Deere 7720 and a 1975 Deere 7700. "The 7720 could use a little more grain tank capacity so we could go 1/2 mile taking 8 rows. The 7700 could use a monitor. We've owned 7 Deere combines over the years and they've always been the best. Almost never any downtime."

"Our 1976 Gleaner F is a great combine. What I really appreciate is that it's simple and easy to repair. Good capacity for its size. I put Ausherman cylinder bars (Ausherman Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 2419, Salina, Kan. 67402 ph 913 825-1789) in the combine to boost capacity," says Leonard Ahrenholtz, Denison, Iowa.