(Continued from previous page)

"To improve performance, I installed grain saver/rock and dirt guards on the grain head. (W.A. Johnson Inc., 2340 Ampere Drive, Louisville, Ky., 40299; ph 800 523-3979 or 502 266-7177). They do an excellent job of keeping rocks out of the head and grain from rolling off it. I also installed a feederhouse silencer kit (May-Wes Manufacturing Inc., Cty. Rd. 2, P.O. Box 5, Gibbon, Minn. 55335; ph 507 834-6572; fax 6909) that eliminates any chain rattle and clank."

• Dean Panter, Athol, Kan., is "generally satisfied" with his 1980 L2 **Gleaner**. "But it does throw a lot of grain out on side hills and it needs more power for operating on soft, muddy ground," he says.

"To improve performance, I installed Sunnybrooke Welding's high inertia cylinder and 9-bar concave (distributed exclusively in North America by Agco). It does a much better job. We've cut 675 acres of wheat in 82 engine hours with this cylinder."

• John Phelan, Perry, Iowa, has had good luck with his 1982 **Massey Ferguson** 850. "It's been a dependable performer through the years and my dealer has provided excellent service and parts," he says. "To improve performance, I added a Tiger Jaw (Herschel-Adams Inc., 1301 N. 14th St., Indianola, Iowa 50125; ph 800 247-2167 or 515 961 7481) double-cut, bolt-on sickle."

• Ronald Ahrens, Ellinwood, Kan., likes his 1983 **Deere** 7720. "It does a good job separating and cleaning grain," he says. "They could have made some parts easier to service, however. For example, the grain tank is difficult to clean out.

"I took an electric window motor and mounted it on the variable speed fan adjustment. I connected the motor to a toggle switch I mounted inside the cab to let me adjust fan speed from the cab. Works great."

• Keith Kelley, Baxter Springs, Kan., has had annoying "little problems" with his 1992 **Gleaner** R-52 combine header. "It does fine in clean, dry conditions, but won't feed soybeans and green material evenly," Keith says. "On the plus side, the dealer has never failed to help with any problem."

• "Grain quality is excellent and adjusting settings is easy," says Larry Wardenburg, Wlliamsburg, Ia., about his 1980 **Case-IH** 1440. I'd buy another Case-IH combine."

• "We have a **New Idea** Uni System harvester, the 709 power unit and the 717 combine. It works reasonably well for our 230-acre operation," says David L. Miller, Kalona, Iowa. "Maintenance can be a pain, but we still like it thanks to the versatility offered by the number of machines that can be attached to the power unit."

• A 1979 **IH** 715 still runs like a top, no problems, reports James C. Perley, Little Sioux, Iowa. Not so with a 1976 **IH** 815 he had before. "First we had a short in the starter switch. Next, a water hose burst in the cab. We had to replace straw walkers twice. After that, a sieve disintegrated and several slip clutches failed. Finally, the cylinder walls in the engine disintegrated," James says. "The combine's design made it difficult to repair."

• "My worst buy ever was a 1979 **Deere** 6620," says Robert Schultz, Columbus, Kan. "I always thought it should have been melted down for scrap. There wasn't anything right about it from day one through the 10 years I put up with it. It always required more repairs than my son's 1983 6620. Hard to believe there could be so much difference in two machines that came off the same assembly line."

• Caswell Booe, Yadkinville, N.C., is pleased with his 693 **Deere** corn head equipped with poly shields and hydraulically adjustable deck plates. "The machine performs flawlessly, much better than the 643 head it replaced," Caswell says. "Plugs and slow feeding have virtually been eliminated by the slick poly shields. Thanks to the hydraulic deck plates, there is no more constant adjusting in specialty crops."

• "Ahead of its time" is how Herman Glueck, Tremont, Ill., describes his 1984 **White** 9720 4-WD combine. "It's easy to set and a pleasure to operate. It has plenty of capacity as well as a large capacity grain tank that doesn't require high add-on extensions," he says. "It's a durable machine, and its 250 hp Perkins diesel has plenty of power."

• David R. Powers, Cynthiana, Kty., is satisfied with his 1986 Deere 6620 RWA turbocharged combine. "I traded in a 1974 Deere 6600. It didn't have header height control or a reversable feederhouse, but it was a hard working, reliable combine. My 6620 is just as reliable. It's very comfortable to operate, easy to maintain, and a joy to operate. I don't know what I'll do when I'm ready to trade in this combine. Even Deere's smallest model, the 9400, is too big for the 250 to 300 acres that I harvest every year. I wish Deere would build smaller combines."

He Built His Own Stripper Header

I couldn't justify the $1,000-per- foot price that a commercial unit would have cost so I built my own stripper header two years ago out of a 24-ft. quick-tach Deere platform head," says Joe Kinnie, Julesburg, Colorado, who runs his header on a 1984 **Deere** 8820.

Kinnie's stripper header is hydraulically driven by a 40 gpm pump with a 50-gal. oil reservoir mounted on the head. It powers a 45 hp orbit motor that drives a 12-in. dia. stripper rotor he built out of 1/4-in. thick pipe. The rotor is fitted with keyhole-shaped stripper fingers he made out of 1/2-in. thick UHMW plastic.

The only parts I used from the original platform head was the tin work, the cross auger and the frame," Kinnie says. "I put new end plates on and a 5 by 7-in. toolbar underneath the platform to support the extra weight of the one-piece 1,250 lb.-rotor.

I also mounted a fan and oil cooler on the right side to solve overheating problems that farmers have had on commercial units. I've never seen the oil temperature go above 175° on my machine even when working in 100° heat.

"The rotor turns clockwise at 500 to 1,000 rpm's, and teeth may comb a stalk of grain as many as 40 times. That helps

increase capacity by as much as 1 1/2 times and reduce wear and tear on it.

I visited regularly with Todd Young, Knobel, Ark., who built his own stripper header (Vol. 18, No. 6) before building mine. I don't feel that I am violating the original patent for this machine because my design is substantially different from the commercial models.

I built my header for just under $10,000 and it hasn't given me a moment's trouble in use on over 2,000 acres of wheat and barley. In fact, I'm so pleased I'm considering building a 30-ft. stripper header this winter since my combine has the power to handle it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Kinnie, 5777 Hwy. 385, Julesburg, Colo. 80737 (ph 970 474-2196),

Plastic Header Snouts Catch On Fast

Plastic corn head snouts improve feeding so you can increase ground speed with less plugging. And they weigh only about a third as much as metal, making big headers easier to handle. What's more, they don't fade or rust.

This fall New Holland became the latest company to offer poly corn head snouts. The company's new 996 header has a low-profile design that lets it get under down corn more efficiently than competitive corn heads, says the company. Poly shields flip up for complete access without tools. The design makes it easy to change between standard straight-

New Holland's plastic spouts flip up for easy access.

fluted stalk rolls and optional knife stalk rolls that chop stalk residue into smaller pieces.

Row units consist of two-piece cast iron gearboxes so if only one piece goes bad you don't have to replace the other piece, reducing repair costs.

These companies also offer plastic snouts:

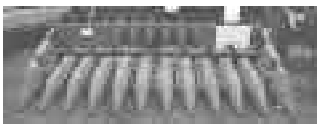
• Deere: Three years ago Deere introduced its 90 series poly corn head (Vol. 17, No. 5). To gain access to the deck plate area, you simply raise the row unit point, remove two locking pins, and tuck the point into a stirrup. This fall the company showed a 12-row 20-in. head (model 1290) and a 22-in. head (model 1291).

• Vande Weerd Combine, Inc. They offer poly replacement snouts for Deere and Case-IH corn headers (Vol. 19, No. 5). They're built as close as possible to original specs and come in matching colors. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vande Weerd Combine, Inc., 2553 320th, Rock Valley, Iowa 51247 (ph 800 831-4814).

• CFC Distributors, Inc. CFC's bolt-on poly shields fit any Deere, Case-IH, AGCO, or New Holland corn header (Vol. 19, No. 2). The white color is designed to show up better at night. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CFC Distributors, Inc., Rt. 1, Box 181, Roann, Ind. 46974 (ph 800 548-6633).

• Von Grotto. Their plastic bolt-on shields are designed for Case-IH and Deere corn heads and are available in 22- and 30-in. wide models (Vol. 18, No. 5). They're hinged on back and pivot forward for easy service access. Available in matching colors. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Von Grotto, 60113 CSAH 16, Litchfield, Minn. 55355 (ph 612 693-8411).

• Bish. Brad Bish introduced a 15-in. row header built with International row units and plastic snouts mounted on a Deere frame. Also a 20-in. head made entirely from Deere row units. Contact:



Bish makes a 20-in. head fitted with plastic snouts.

FARM SHOW Followup, Harv's Farm Supply, 508 South D Road, Giltner, Neb. 68841 (ph 402 849-2674).

• Lofquist Welding. New-style poly snouts can still lose ears, says this company which offers "ear savers" designed to mount on both ends of the header (Vol. 20, No. 2). The units mount over the end of the snouts to guide stalks up and into the header. Painted Deere green and fit 30 or 36-in. row spacings. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lofquist Welding, Inc., 206 Ontario St., Elwood, Neb. 68937 (ph 308 785-2755).

• Greenline. Mark Beam, a Deere dealer in Washington Court House, Ohio, showed a new 15-in. row header at the recent Ohio Science Review Show. It's equipped with GVL poly snouts. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greenline, Box 575, 1515 U.S. 22 East, Washington Court House, Ohio 43160 (ph 614 335-2071).