
**Conveyor belts move bales forward into flail cutters that pull hay and straw off bale ends. Another conveyor drops material into a bunk or on the ground.**

## New Feed Processor Mixes Hay With Straw On-The-Go

Cow-calf producer R.C. Patterson, Kim, Colorado, wanted to run more cattle than his winter pasture would handle.

"I had plenty of summer pasture for 400 head of cows and calves, but in the winter I could only handle half that many," says Patterson.

He says he could buy plenty of good alfalfa but it would be too dense in nutrients for his beef cows. He could also buy wheat straw and oat hay but it wouldn't have enough nutrients. If he put out a few bales of both alfalfa and straw, he knew that some of the cows would eat most of the alfalfa and others would get only straw and he'd have problems.

What he wanted was a machine that would process hay and mix it together in the right proportion so cows would have trouble sorting out the higher quality feed from the lower quality.

And he wanted to be able to mix the two types of feed and put them right into the feed bunk so he wouldn't have to store the processed feed. Trouble was, he couldn't find a machine that would do the job at a price he could justify. And so, his E-Z Ration Processor was born. It took him three years to get it right, but Patterson finally put together exactly the machine he wanted.

It's a trailer that holds up to four 4 by 8-ft. bales, two of each kind of feed. There are conveyor belts under each side. The belts move the bales forward into flail cutters that pull hay and straw off the ends of the bales and drop it onto a third conveyor that mixes it up a little and drops it into a bunk or on the ground. The conveyors under the bales run independently of each other and the operator can vary the speed of each to adjust the ration.

Patterson did some ration cost tests that showed he could save about $0.19 per cow per day by mixing a lower quality hay into a higher quality one. For 400 cows, that's a savings of $76 a day. Over a three-to-four-month winter feeding period, that amounts to a reduced feed cost of between $7,000 and $10,000. He says another of his studies suggests a 25 percent reduction in feed use, brought on by the combination of feeding a more balanced ration and feeding in a bunk rather than on the ground.

Patterson has also developed a hopper attachment for the front of the processor that allows grain or pelleted feed to be mixed into the hay as it drops into the feed bunk.

The EZ Ration Processor needs a tractor with 80 hp or so. "It doesn't take that much power to run the processor, but you have to have something that won't be pushed around by the load on the machine," he says.

Patterson applied for and received a patent on it. He contracted with Mohrlang Manufacturing Inc., Brush, Colorado, to produce the machine and formed a corporation to market the machine himself. Selling price is just under $25,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R.C. Patterson, RCMR, Inc., Box 140, Kim, Colorado 81049 (ph 800 242-9599; ph/fax 719 643-5275; Website: www.ezration.com).

**Hopper attachment on front of processor allows grain or pelleted feed to be mixed into the hay as it drops into the feed bunk.**

**"Ultimate Cover" is a plastic dome that's inflated by a 12-volt electric fan. Fan constantly blows in filtered air to keep the clear plastic cover inflated.**

## "Dome Of Air" Protects Stored Equipment

Here's the most unique idea we've ever seen for protecting equipment in storage – an inflatable plastic dome that keeps out dust, moisture and pests.

Introduced at the recent California Farm Equipment Show near Tulare, the "Ultimate Cover" is inflated by a 12-volt electric fan that constantly blows in filtered air to keep the clear plastic cover inflated.

The standard 6 ft. wide, 24-ft. long enclosure has a base made from PVC fabric. You "peel" the cover open by unzipping it around the entire base and drive the vehicle to be stored onto the base. Then pull the cover back over, zip it up, and plug in the fan to inflate the unit. The entire process takes only about 3 minutes.

"It keeps out mildew, mold, rot and rust and the fan costs only about $1.50 per month to operate," says Bill Chapman, manufacturer. "The vehicle will dry out while it's inside the dome because a small amount of air is constantly leaking out through the zipper.

**Fan that inflates dome costs just $1.50 per month to operate, says manufacturer.**

"The fan is powered by a 12-volt motor that runs off 110-volt electricity. We recommend storing the unit out of the sun to avoid exposure to ultraviolet rays."

The covers are available in various sizes with widths making them big enough to store dually pickups, tractors, boats, snowmobiles, etc. The biggest model offered measures 8 1/2 ft. wide by 24 ft. long.

A 6 1/2-ft. wide, 20-ft. long unit sells for $399 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Headrick, Inc., 11287 Garzoli Ave., Delano, Calif. 93216 (ph 661 725-0734; fax 0766).

**"High-inertia" rotor is actually a rebuilt Case-IH rotor. Kuchar re-attaches the rub bars in a more open design which allows the crop to go through faster without "slugging down" the rotor.**

## Kuchar Introduces New Rotor For Case-IH Axial-Flow Combines

George Kuchar, better known as the "Combine Man", has been manufacturing specialized high-performance combine parts for years. He unveiled his latest patent-pending combine add-on at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky.

It's a "high-inertia" rotor for Case-IH combines that's designed to improve performance in any crop.

The new rotor is actually a rebuilt Case-IH rotor. Kuchar "re-skins" the rotor with a 1/4-in. thick material and then re-attaches the rub bars in a more open design which allows the crop to go through faster without "slugging down" the rotor. That results in a better job of threshing and separating without tearing up the crop material and overloading the sieves, says Kuchar. Also, the crop material pulls through more easily which reduces wear and tear to the combine belts, bearings, and the rotor drive system. The combine also uses less fuel.

"It takes only about two turns of the rotor for the crop to go through, compared to four times with the original rotor with the vanes in the fast position," says Kuchar. "The new rotor sounds more like a conventional combine equipped with concaves and cylinders. When a slug goes in, you don't hear a thump every time the rotor goes around. Instead, you just hear one thump and then the crop is out."

A Kuchar rotor for Case-IH 60 series combines sells for about $4,000 plus S&H. Rotors for the 80 series sell for about $4,700 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kuchar Combine Performance, Box 595, Carlinville, Ill. 62626 (ph 217 854-9838; fax 6076; Website: www.Kucharcombines.com).