

Mini Combine For Small Farms

Small farms and specialty grain producers don't have many options when it comes to harvesting thin crops. Small combines are hard to find in good shape. When Anthony Butard needed to harvest multiple small plots of beans and small grain on his 100-acre farm in Oregon, he turned to a small portable thresher made by an Italian company.

"We grow about an acre and a half of durum wheat and a number of different kinds of beans so we ordered concaves and screens for both crops," says Butard.

Ferrari Tractors in California markets the Cicoria ATX 2000 in North America. The pto-driven thresher is pulled to the field and leveled. It requires at least a 45 hp tractor and can be equipped with a straw cutting/crushing unit. The thresher has a barred conveyor belt feeder, axial flow rotor, adjustable concaves and replaceable screens. Straw is discharged by tube away from the unit, while clean grain or beans can be bag filled.

Cicoria also makes two smaller threshers with one designed for hand feeding. The Plot 375 can thresh a wide variety of cereals, oil seeds and small seeded plants from clover to garden produce. A three-phase electric motor or a 6 hp gas engine can power it. Cylinder speed and air flow can be adjusted to regulate threshing, with feeding rate determined by the sound of the threshing and by viewing the process through Plexiglas plates. Seed stems or stalks are fed into the machine by hand and withdrawn after the seed has been removed by a rubber-bladed drum.

Butard notes that his ATX 2000 wasn't cheap at \$22,000, but adds the price did include both bean and grain screens. Shipping the machine from Italy added \$5,000 to the price.

In the four years since Butard ordered his machines, prices have increased.

"The ATX 2000L now costs \$35,000 at the factory, though shipping has stayed at \$5,000," says Eugene Canales, Ferrari Tractors, CIE. "However, the less automated Plot 375 costs \$16,000 delivered in the U.S."

Butard stresses that while costly, the thresher has expanded the products he can sell. "Its versatility opens up lots of new and different crop options," he says.

One product is frikeh, made from immature durum wheat that is harvested green, just as the grain matures out of the milk stage. Butard and his crew cut the grain by hand and pile it on sheets of corrugated tin. Using large propane torches, they parch the wheat, burning away the awns. Then it is threshed, cleaned and finally dried on screens. Butard uses a small seed cleaner that can clean about half a ton of grain a day. He notes that the hands-on process is ideal for small farmers looking for new products. Although he didn't even know what frikeh was a few years ago, he now struggles to fill local demand.

"It is used in salads and soups like bulgur or rice, but it has a smoky quality," explains Butard. "We will sell a thousand pounds in three or four weeks for about \$6 per pound."

While satisfied with the job the thresher



Small pto-driven thresher requires only a 45 hp tractor for power. It can be equipped with a straw cutting/crushing unit.

does, Butard notes that it's hard to clean out. He has to keep varieties separate for customers and for his own seed saving for next year's crop.

He also plans to refurbish a 1950's vintage All-Crop Allis Chalmers combine. "With the resurgence of small plots, we need someone to reintroduce some form of the All-Crop combine," he says. "I'd love to see someone turn out a \$10,000 to \$12,000 machine with the option of pto or motor drive."

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"Mini Wagon" Carries 40-Bu. Loads

"Our 40 bushel gravity box works great as a grain buggy for feeding corn burning stoves and to haul feed to livestock. And it's light enough to pull behind any ATV or garden tractor," says Larry Lauritzen, Kory Farm Equipment, Manlius, Ill., about his 4-wheeled mini gravity box.

The 4-ft. high unit can hold up to 47 bu. of dry corn and has an open top. It mounts on the company's model 3000 running gear, which can also accept a wagon box or be equipped with a 4 by 8-ft. or 5 by 10-ft. expanded metal bed (Vol. 31, No. 4). The box simply clamps on over the running gear's front axle. It's available in both front wheel steer and all wheel steer models.

Corn gravity feeds out an opening on back of the box. Grain discharges through a 17-in.

high slide gate.

"It's big enough to hold several week's supply for a corn stove. Yet it's small enough to fit into your garage if you want," says Larry Lauritzen. "Most users dump the corn into 5-gal. buckets to carry into the house. Small farmers with only a few head of livestock like it because they can hand feed their animals, or use it in their barn as a holding bin. They can also pull the unit into a field and feed out of it there."

The wagon sells for \$350; the running gear for \$525.

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"It works great for feeding corn burning stoves and for hauling feed to livestock," says Larry Lauritzen about his 4-wheeled mini gravity box.

Protect Your ATV's Wheels With Style

Inspect your ATV after a trail ride and you'll probably discover dings, bends, and even cracks in the wheel rims caused by impact with rocks, tree stumps, logs, or washouts. The impacts can also damage the bead area of your tires. These new wheel-mounted poly rings are designed to prevent the damage before it ever occurs.

RimArmor rings are machined from 1/2-in. thick, solid polyethylene plate specially formulated to absorb impacts and resist abrasion. They're also impervious to most chemicals and are unaffected by UV rays.

The rings extend about 1/2 in. above the rim to cover the bead area of the tire. No modification is required to your ATV's existing rims.

"They absorb the impact of hitting a rock or stump instead of the rim taking the hit and getting smashed," says inventor Larry Lundy. "They also protect the bead area of your tires, as the ring extends about 1/2 inch above the rim to cover the bead area of the tire. As a

result, you won't have to worry about getting stranded miles from home because of tire or rim failure. They're especially useful in extreme riding conditions like off road, rough terrain and rocky areas. The center of the wheel is left open so you can still get at the lug nuts and valve stem."

The poly rings fit most stock aluminum and steel rims and are available for 9, 10, 11, and 12-in. rims. They can be ordered with either the "wedgelock" style attachment method for steel rims equipped with a 1/4-in. deep minimum recessed bead area; or a "hook" style attachment that wraps over the radiused edge of an aluminum rim and also steel rims equipped with a lip that's less than 1/4 in. deep.

Nine different color variations are available, including five solid (red, black, green, yellow, or blue) and four multicolor with either black or white lettering.

A set of four RimArmor rings sells for \$189.99 plus \$18 S&H.



Wheel-mounted poly rings are designed to prevent damage to ATV's wheel rims. Rings extend about 1/2 in. above the rim to protect bead area of tire.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Colo. 80015 (ph 720 841-7912; rimarmor@Comcast.net; www.rimarmor.com).