



Clarke makes “do-it-yourself” header kits down to 22 in. Photo shows a 10-row, 15-in. header he recently built for Dwayne Beck at a South Dakota State research farm.

COMPANY SELLS RECONDITIONED ROW UNITS

“Build-It-Yourself” Narrow Row Header Kit

A South Dakota company is offering a “do-it-yourself” kit that lets you build your own narrow row corn header using reconditioned row units off Deere 4-row corn headers.

“You can buy your own used frame and mount our reconditioned row units on them for far less money than buying a new narrow row header of comparable size,” says Dave Clarke, Clarke Machine, Howard, S. Dak. “If you don’t have the time or expertise to build your own header, we sell complete units, too.”

The company goes to farm sales, machinery dealers, etc., and buys Deere 4-row corn headers, then strips off the row units and totally reconditions them. They recently displayed a 12-row, 22-in. header, built from reconditioned row units off three Deere 4-row heads, at the first annual Dakota Fest farm show near Mitchell, S. Dak.

According to Clarke, the kit offers big savings. “Our 12-row 22-in. header sells for about \$27,500 and will do just as good a job as a new Deere 12-row header that sells for about \$50,000. You can save even more money by building your own. We sell reconditioned row units for about \$1,350 per row, and you can buy your own frame and auger for about \$5,000.

“We buy Deere 4-row headers because row for row they’re the least expensive on the market. There never were enough big

corn heads built to meet the demands of today’s farmers. However, we can also recondition the row units off other combine brands. We can make the headers to any width with row spacings as narrow as 18 inches.”

Clarke recently built a 10-row, 15-in. corn header for Dwayne Beck at South Dakota State’s Dakota Lakes Research Farm. Unlike other 15-row heads, it has two gathering chains per row. Beck will use it to harvest 245 acres of irrigated and non-irrigated plots this fall.

“The big question all farmers have is exactly what row width they should go to. For example, they don’t want to go to 22 in. rows and then find out later that 15-in. rows would have been better. I don’t think 15-in. rows will be the answer for big-acreage farmers because the super narrow row headers are so heavy. For example, our 10-row, 15-in. header weighs 6,000 to 7,000 lbs. which is about as much as most combines can handle. Someone will have to invent a whole different way of harvesting corn before super narrow rows will be practical for big farmers. Beck even plans to experiment with stripper headers on corn.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarke Machine, Box 694, East Highway 34, Howard, S. Dak. 57349 (ph 800 658-4568 or 605 772-4164).

“Most Accurate Portable Scales Ever”

“They’re the most accurate and convenient portable weigh scales in the industry,” says Dave Wolf about the portable scales his company makes that’ll even weigh accurately on uneven ground.

Schran Engineering’s scales feature all-aluminum pads which weigh 56 lbs. each and are 28 in. long by 24 1/2 in. wide by just 3 in. high. The pads each have 15,000-lb. capacity and are wired by 30-ft. cords to a Weigh-Tronix indicator. The system runs off any 12-volt source, including a cigarette lighter.

“While some portable scale systems require you to walk around to each pad and get a separate weight off each axle, ours gives you one weight right at the indicator,” Wolf notes. “That’s guaranteed to within 1 percent or better accuracy.

“Our system is also expandable. You can add pads.”



Four-pad system is ideal for tractors, wagons, and single-axle trucks, while 6-pad system is ideal for tandem axle trucks, he says. Stainless steel carrying case and output jack for connecting to a printer are optional.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Schran Engineering Inc., Rt. 2, Box 68, Griswold, Iowa 51535 (ph 712 774-2220; fax 2230).



Mueller mounted a 4,000-gal. liquid manure tank on a used Mack tandem axle truck. Hydraulic-powered shuttle arm hooks onto a steel subframe bolted on under tank.

HE USES MACK TRUCK AS A LIQUID SPREADER AND A FORAGE DUMP BOX

“Roll-Off” Shuttle For Tandem Axle Trucks

“You can turn any tandem axle truck into a combination liquid manure spreader and self-propelled forage dump box with a new shuttle system that makes it easy to switch between the manure tank and forage box,” says Tom Mueller, Athens, Wis., who mounted the new system on a used Mack tandem axle truck last spring.

The shuttle system is manufactured by Stellar Industries of Garner, Iowa. Mueller, who’s one of the first farmers to try the new system, can switch between tank and box without getting out of the cab. A hydraulic-powered shuttle arm hooks onto a steel subframe that’s bolted on under the tank and dump box.

Mueller uses a Van Dale 4,000-gal. liquid manure tank made by J-Star Industries of Fort Atkinson, Wis. Van Dale can custom build the frame to fit any of its tanks.

“It lets us use one rig to spread manure and also haul haylage from the field to our bunker silos,” says Mueller, who operates a 350-cow dairy operation. “We had been hiring someone to custom spread all of our manure on fields up to 4 miles away. We were using a pair of 1-ton pickups and fifth wheel trailers to haul haylage to our farm from fields up to 8 miles away. It was hard on the pickups and we had a lot of money tied up in equipment. We were at the point where we would’ve had to buy another pickup and trailer just to keep up with the forage chopper on longer hauls.”

Instead, he traded in one of the pickups for a 1990 Mack tandem axle truck. He paid \$40,000 for the truck, \$20,000 for the shuttle system, and \$8,300 for the liquid manure tank. He had to modify the truck frame so it would accept the frame on the shuttle system, and add a self-contained hydraulic system at a cost of about \$2,000. He also paid \$3,500 each for a pair of new 22-ft. long



Shuttle arm lets him switch between the tank and a 22-ft. long forage dump box without getting out of the cab.

garbage hauler truck boxes. One box is 7 1/2 ft. high and the other one 5 ft. high. “We use a pull-type chopper pulling a high-dump wagon. We set these two dump boxes on the ground at the end of the field,” says Mueller. “We fill one box while the other one is being unloaded. The big box holds 12 to 14 tons while the small one holds 7 to 9 tons. It takes less than a minute to switch boxes.”

J-Star makes manure tanks that range in size from 1,500 to 5,500 gal. and sell for \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Mueller, 1614 County Rd. M., Athens, Wis. 54411 (ph 715 257-9239); Stellar Industries, Inc., 280 W. Third St., Garner, Iowa 50438 (ph 515 923-3741); or Van Dale Waste Handlers, Division of J-Star Industries, Inc., 801 Janesville Ave., Fort Atkinson, Wis. 53538 (ph 414 563-5521).

