



Rea's 6-row, 15-in. corn head has just one gathering chain per row. They built it using an 8-row Deere 843 head they already owned and bought two used 4-row heads.

Narrow-Row Corn Head Built For Deere 9600 Combine

If you've ever considered switching to ultra-narrow row corn you'll want to take a close look at this 15-in. row header.

The 16-row, 15-in. header was built by Junior and Richard Rea of Hamilton, Ill., with the help of neighbor John McIlmoil. It mounts on their Deere 9600 combine and was patterned after a header designed by Alpha, Ill., farmer-researcher Marion Calmer (ph 309 334-2609), with just one gathering chain per row.

The Reas used an 8-row Deere 843 header that they already owned and bought two used 4-row headers. They stripped them down to the frames and rebuilt all the row units. Gearboxes had to be milled on the sides to make them narrow enough to work and the framework that the stripper plates and gathering chains run on had to be cut down with a cutting torch. They added 7 in. to each side of the 8-row header. A local welder, Lawrence Cokel, helped them lengthen the cross auger and extend the framework of the original 8-row head. Narrow poly snout covers made by GVL of Litchfield, Minn., were fitted over each row unit.

"We put in new seals and bearings on all the gearboxes, which was very time consuming. However, it was worth it," says

Junior. "We used it last fall on about 1,000 acres and it worked great. Our corn yields averaged about 7 bu. per acre more than on 30-in. rows. We use a 16-row Kinze 2600 splitter planter with one extra row unit added on to make it a 15-in., 32-row planter.

"The only limitation was on odd-shaped fields where the corn stalks are far enough away from the gathering chains that they didn't feed in too well. It's very easy to get off the row or not get started on the right row. A 30-in. header has more room to play with.

Rea says total weight of the 16-row header is about 6,340 lbs. which is about 1,500 lbs. more than the weight of a typical 8-row unit. He estimates he has about \$1,375 per row invested in machine work and rebuilding the corn head.

The Reas mounted a pair of 3/4-in. dia. steel rods across the top of the header in order to keep it from sagging down on both ends.

"We welded a steel plate on the other side of each row to fill up the space where the gathering chain would normally go. The plates guide the ears into the gathering chains."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Junior Rea, Box 207, Hamilton, Ill. 62341 (ph 217 845-3571 or 4951).

No-Mess Bale Bag

Here's a simple idea that might be handy for a lot of people. We spotted it in the New Zealand farm magazine "Farm Equipment News".

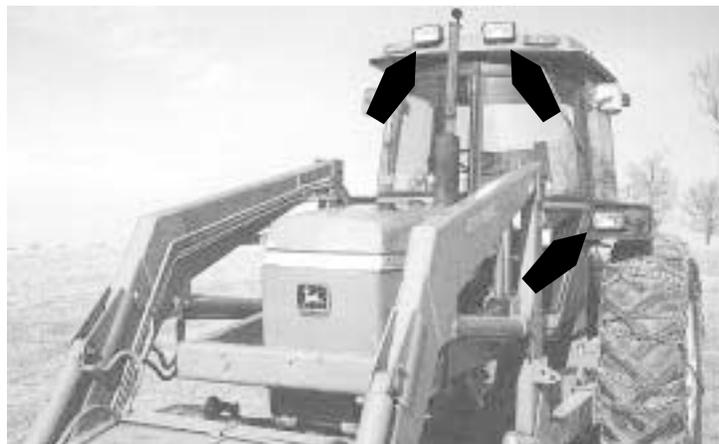
If you've ever had to haul one bale in a car trunk or back of a van - which you would like to keep clean - you'll like the idea of the No-Mess Bale Bag. Made out of rip-resistant blue poly canvas, the bag has carrying straps so you can tote it on your shoulders, if necessary. The bag is waterproof.

It was "invented" by Chris Ries, a farmer near Kaiwaka, Northland, who wanted something to carry a bale or two along when he took his Appaloosa horses to shows. He notes that the bagged bales also make handy bench seats until they're needed as feed.

He's having the bags made by a nearby saddlery shop and sells them for about \$25 apiece.



Photo courtesy Farm Equipment News
Heavy duty poly bag fits over a conventional small square bale. Bag has carrying straps so you can tote it on your shoulders, if necessary, or throw it in the back seat of your car.



Iager added two lights in front of cab and two on fenders next to existing round lights.

Add-On Halogen Lights Make Deere 4030 "Impossible To Miss" On Highway

"I live in a part of Maryland that used to be rural but now has a lot of highway traffic due to urban sprawl. I wanted to make sure other drivers could see me on the highway and wasn't satisfied with the existing incandescent lights on my 1973 Deere 4030 tractor. I solved the problem by adding six 100-watt Halogen flood lights to the tractor. Now I can see - and be seen - a lot better," says Larry Iager, Laurel, Md.

Iager ordered the Halogen lights, which measure 6 1/2 in. wide by 3 1/2 in. high, from a J.C. Whitney auto parts catalog. He added two lights on front of the cab, two on the fenders next to the existing round lights, and two on back of the cab which replace the original incandescent lights. He also added a yellow flashing marker light to each side of the cab, as well as a strip of red and white reflective tape on back of it. All lights are wired to tractor's original 100-amp alternator.

"The white light given off by these Halogen lights makes a tremendous difference in illumination compared to the original sealed beam incandescent lights which gave a weak yellow glow," says Iager.

"They cost less than \$200. Most tractor dealers only offer 50-watt Halogen lights which aren't quite as good.

"The tractor came equipped with flashing marker lights on the front and rear but none on the sides. I wired my side-mounted flashing lights so they go on and off at the same time as the tractor's original red marker lights on back of the fenders. The combination of the 100-watt Halogen lights, flashing yellow and red marker lights, and the reflective tape makes my tractor light up at night like a Christmas tree. Approaching vehicles from behind can't help but see it.

"The fender-mounted Halogen lights are mounted right next to the original lights and do such a good job that I rarely even use the original ones any more. They can be easily adjusted up, down or sideways. The Halogen lights on back of the cab make it easy to hook up to any implement and to see whatever I'm pulling."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry H. Iager, 8740 Old Columbia Rd., Laurel, Md. 20723 (ph 301 776-6622; E-mail: wipeout@erols.com).



Two lights on back of cab replace original incandescent lights. Iager also added a yellow flashing marker light to each side of cab, as well as a strip of red and white reflective tape on back of it.

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