

“Grain Levelor” Fills Wagons Evenly From Front To Back

“It fills wagons evenly from front to back so you never have to move them or do any shoveling,” says Glen Forrest, Potomac, Ill., about his auger-mounted “Grain Levelor”.

Forrest showed the new idea for the first time at the recent Minnesota Inventors Congress in Redwood Falls.

It consists of three PVC pipes - a short 8-in. dia. section that bolts on in place of the auger unloading spout, and two 6-in. dia., 30-in. long pipes that extend out to each side. There’s an opening between the pipes, and the underside of each pipe has an opening in the middle. As a result, grain coming out of the auger falls in five separate streams. Grain flow is adjusted by slides mounted under the end of each pipe. The amount of space between the pipes, and the size of the openings, are also adjustable.

“I use it whenever I unload grain from my

bins. It eliminates having to move the wagon all the time,” says Forrest. “It has no moving parts so there’s nothing to rust out or wear out. A big advantage is that it distributes fines evenly throughout the wagon. I use it on my 8-in. Kewaunee auger to fill a 300 bu. gravity wagon, but the pipes could be made longer to fill a larger trailer or box car. There’s a rope attached to each pipe which I can reach from the ground in order to raise the pipes out of the way, making room for the tractor pulling the wagon to drive under the auger. The pipes are supported by chains which can be adjusted to change the pipe angle. Adjustable slides can be used to change the size of all openings.

“I have one bin where the unloading auger comes out at a 90 degree angle from the bin, and another bin where the auger comes out at a 45 degree angle. I drilled two holes in



Five streams of grain flow from the “Grain Levelor”, which attaches to auger spout.

the auger spout so I can rotate the entire grain levelor in order to keep it lined up with the wagon.”

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“The Drinking Post” draws fresh, clean, ground-temperature water every time a thirsty animal presses his nose to the paddle. Unused water drains from the bowl.

Freeze-Proof Drinking Post Cheaper To Operate, Healthier

“The Drinking Post” is cheaper to operate and keeps horses healthier than conventional freeze-proof waterers, according to the company that brought the idea to market.

It requires no electricity. It draws fresh, clean, ground-temperature water (50 degrees F) every time a thirsty animal presses his nose to the paddle. When he is finished drinking, the unused water drains from the bowl.

The Drinking Post system keeps livestock healthier, especially during hot or cold weather, since they are inclined to drink more when the water temperature is a constant, ambient temperature.

“When the paddle is pushed, only the actuator rod, the intake valve and the check valve move so there’s little to go wrong,” says company owner Janet Wilson of Durango, Colorado. “The post can be installed anywhere - in stables, paddocks or pastures. We have customers who use the Drinking Post for llamas and cattle, but that is an individual option. We know that horses can be easily trained to push the paddle for water; we are not confident in our knowledge of cattle or other livestock’s training capabilities, so we only market it as a horse waterer.”

The Drinking Post consists of an 8-in. dia. PVC pipe. Because there are no heat tapes, de-icers, or electricity needed, owners have no monthly heating costs.

“It will not freeze up because, except for the time that the animal is actually drinking, there is no water sitting above the frost line,” Wilson says. “To work, it requires water pressure between 45 and 65 psi, and the post must be ordered long enough to be installed 18 inches below the frost line in your area.”

The 6-ft. version of the Drinking Post costs \$325 (U.S.) plus \$25 for shipping and handling (UPS ground). The 8-ft. model is \$345 U.S. plus \$30 for shipping and handling. Custom lengths are available and the units all carry a one-year guarantee against defects in materials and/or workmanship.

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The Lortons built this passive solar collector panel around their Shivvers 10,000-bu. grain drying bin. Sheets of tin, painted black, run from under eave down to the ground.

Low-Cost Solar Collector Helps Dry Corn

“It’s maintenance-free and helps dry our corn at virtually no cost even on the coldest winter days,” say Harvey and Gary Lorton of Greenfield, Ill., about the passive solar collector panel they built around their Shivvers 10,000-bu. grain drying bin.

The solar unit consists of several sheets of tin that run from under the eave down to the ground. The sheets are painted with black asphalt to absorb heat. There’s a 4-in. wide gap between the black tin and the bin wall. A 10 hp fan sucks the warmed air down into a plenum around the base of the bin and then forces it into the grain through the bin’s aeration floor. The fan is enclosed by a small shed

with a sloping roof.

“It produces a lot of heat and there’s nothing to worry about mechanically,” says Gary. “The collector raises the air temperature about 10 degrees. In good weather that’s enough heat to dry about 600 bu. of 20 percent moisture corn per day. It produces some heat even on cloudy days.

“The Shivvers bin comes with vertical outside reinforcement ribs which stand out some 4 in. The tin that we painted black is attached to these bars.”

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Gary Lorton shows the 4-in. wide gap between the black tin and the bin wall.