

Snowblower Doubles As Grain Mover

William Coates doesn't wait for snow to fall to put his tractor-mounted snowblower to work. He gets busy as soon as grain harvest starts, blowing grain from the edge of piles on the ground to augers. "It's fast and makes it possible for me to load a semi all by myself," says Coates. "A bigger auger could probably move more, but, I can load 300 bushels in 10 minutes with my 8-inch auger."

Coates started using the snowblower to get away from using a drag auger, which often scrapes the ground and pulled up dirt. Skid plates under the snowblower allow him to

slowly back into the pile and pick up only grain. The dual stage blower has a cross auger and an impeller with a directional chute that can be focused across a 180° arc.

Coates sets the auger up near the edge of a pile and blows a small pile around the auger intake. The pile then acts like a sump and remaining grain is directed into it. So far, he has used the blower on oats, barley, durum and spring wheat, but not on lentils or peas.

"It is faster than a grain vac and probably more gentle because it isn't moving the kernels as fast," says Coates. "The impeller



Coates says his tractor-mounted blower works so well on grain that he uses a small walk-behind blower for final cleanup.

doesn't seem to damage the grain at all."

The large snowblower worked so well that Coates started using a small snowblower for cleanup. "Now we clean up without

shoveling a single bushel," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Coates, Box 58, Pense, Sask., Canada SOG 3W0 (ph 306 345-2849).

Turkey Producer Helping To Preserve Rare Turkey Varieties

White turkeys aren't the only ones around, even though that's all you normally see in commercial flocks, says Mike Walters, manager of Walters Hatchery, Stilwell, Okla.

Walters is in the business of producing - and preserving - several varieties of colorful turkeys. Among the varieties he produces are Broad Breasted Bronze, Standard Bronze, Blue Slate, Black, Bourbon Red, Eastern Wild, Royal Palm and Narragansett.

He maintains a total laying flock of about 300 hens. "Hens start laying about the end of February and continue through late summer," he says. "They'll lay an egg every 36 to 38 hours, or about four eggs a week per hen."

With all those eggs, his 5,600-egg incubator gets quite a workout. And by the time egg fertility drops off in the summer, he's ready for a break.

Walters' full-time job is working as a paramedic. He calls turkey production a "habit." Some might say it's an obsession. The varieties he produces are all listed as rare or endangered by the Society for the

Preservation of Poultry Antiquities, a national group dedicated to preserving and expanding genetic diversity in all types of poultry.

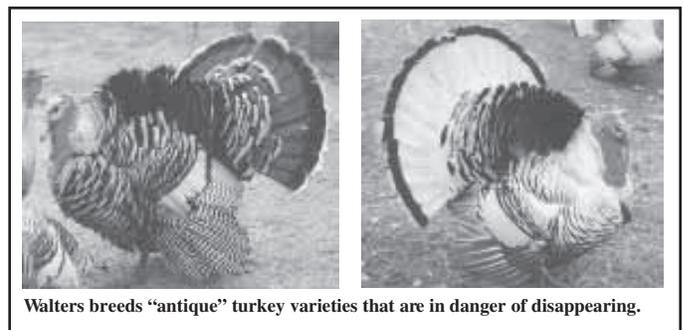
He says most commercial turkeys grown are the same variety. "Genetically, the commercial turkey industry has little diversity. If a new disease hit the flocks, it could run through the entire industry and they would have no other genetics to fall back on," he says.

While his birds grow more slowly, they sell for considerably more than a commercial white bird from the grocery store. He says the demand outstripped supply. His finished birds went for about \$3.50 a lb.

"I'll have more for sale this year, so I'm expecting only about \$3 a pound this fall," he says.

In addition to selling market birds, he also sells breeding stock.

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Walters breeds "antique" turkey varieties that are in danger of disappearing.



Garage door opener mounts on back side of fence. The 6-ft. wide wooden gate slides back and forth on standard sliding door hardware.

Do-It-Yourself Sliding Gate Opener

Terry Benoit and his wife Debbie use a golf cart to check fences and do other chores on their farmstead. They didn't like having to get off the cart every time they went through a gate that leads out of their yard so they came up with a low-cost solution.

Terry built a sliding 6-ft. wide wooden gate that mounts on a 12-ft. long frame made out of treated 4 by 6's. He bought some standard sliding door hardware to support the gate.

Then he simply mounted a garage door opener on the back of the fence, attaching the opener bracket to the back of the gate. He used a 5-gal. bucket to make a protective housing around the motor.

"It works great and cost very little to set



Gate mounts on a 12-ft. long frame made out of treated 4 by 6's.

up since I already had the opener," says Benoit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Terry and Debbie Benoit, 1077 Bobcat Circle, Orange, Texas 77632.

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