

Full-Fingered Auger Kit For Case IH Combines

"It's amazing how much difference a full-fingered auger makes in beans," says Kendall Roetman, Hospers, Iowa, about his kit for Case IH combine soybean platforms. He says installing retractable fingers across the width of the feeder auger - instead of just at the center - evens out the flow of material from the cutterbar to the cylinder, reducing wear and tear and doing a better job of threshing.

Two years ago Roetman was frustrated with how poorly the 25-ft. Case IH 1020 soybean platform on his combine was feeding in the crop. "The problem was that soybeans bunched up at either end of the platform, and when they suddenly went on through they sometimes plugged up the combine."

Roetman knew Deere had been offering a full-fingered auger for the last three years on its combines, and a Deere dealer in his area was selling a retrofit kit for older Deere platforms that made them full fingered. "My neighbors with Deere full-fingered platforms were happy with them. However, my local Case IH dealer told me it would be 1 1/2 years before I could buy a full-fingered platform from Case IH. I thought that was amazing considering that New Holland also offers a full-fingered platform."

So he set about converting his own platform. He copied the finger setup at the middle of the auger on his platform, where fingers extend and then retract as they pull the crop in. "I'm using the same idea, just spreading

it out over the length of the auger," says Roetman. "The fingers pull the crop in more aggressively, keeping it from bunching and resulting in a much more uniform crop flow."

The kit fits the original auger. The fingers attach to an eccentric cam and a plastic hub that rides on a 1-in. dia. shaft inside the auger tube. A 20-ft. platform gets 12 new fingers; a 25-ft. platform gets 16; and a 30-ft. platform gets 20. The fingers extend out about 5 in. when fully extended.

"You can bring your platform to my shop or ship the auger to us and we'll rework it and send it back. We also have some ready-to-go augers we can send out. Ninety percent of the parts in my kit are standard Case IH parts, so if repairs are necessary parts are readily available at your local dealer," he says.

Besides a more even crop flow, the fingers allow you to lift your reel out of the crop and just let the auger and fingers pull the crop in, says Roetman. "Without fingers, you have to run the reel low and tight against the auger in order to feed the crop in. When you run the reel that low, it's banging against the pods which increases shatter problems. While harvesting my bush-type beans this year, I was able to lift the reel completely out of the crop. The only time I lowered it into the crop was when I turned around at the end of the field, in order to pick up single plants. When I switched to harvesting my



In addition to a more even crop flow, added fingers also let Roetman raise the reel up to reduce shatter loss, letting augers and fingers pull the crop in.

straight line beans, I did lower the reel again in order to tip the crop over and flip it into the auger. However, I set the reel only about 4 to 6 in. down into the top of the crop, not 12 or 18 inches like I used to."

Kendall used the full fingered platform to harvest 430 acres of soybeans last fall. "The only problem we had was adjusting to how little help the crop needed from the reel to make the crop feed in," he says. Kendall's father, Robert, drove the modified combine to see for himself how well the kit worked. "The first thing dad said was, 'This is just

like combining corn, everything just flows," says Ken.

The full-fingered auger kit is designed only for Case IH 1020 soybean platforms. A 30-ft. platform auger sells for \$2,985; a 25-ft. for \$2,785; and a 20-ft. for \$2,385.

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He Built His Own 700-Bu. Air Seeder Cart

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

Wilfred Moellenbeck, St. Gregor, Sask., farms 2,000 acres and also operates a custom fabricating shop. Over the years he has built a lot of equipment, and his latest project is this state-of-the-art, 700-bu. air seeder cart. He pulls the unit behind his FlexiCoil 40-ft. cultivator.

"We built everything on it from scratch and as far as I know it's bigger than anything on the market," says Moellenbeck, who built the unit with help from his brother Robert and sons Dennis and Kevin.

The cart operates entirely off tractor hydraulics and is equipped with several hydraulic motors. A blower on back delivers seed and fertilizer to the cultivator. The tank is divided into three compartments, each equipped with its own metering system which consists of three sets of chains and sprockets at the bottom of the tank. The metering system allows each compartment to be adjusted separately to control the rate of seed and fertilizer application. A side-mounted unloading auger is used to empty out any leftover material.

The unit rides on 26 by 30 tires on back and 15 by 26's on front. Plexiglass windows on one side of the tank make it easy to check

seed and fertilizer levels. The tank is equipped with a fold-away ladder on front and a metal walkway platform and hand rails on top. The hand rails fold down for storage.

"We like to get over our ground quickly, and this machine lets us do that," says Moellenbeck. "We use our Deere 9400 425 hp 4-WD tractor to pull it. With the big tires it rolls fairly easily. The metering system is very easy to adjust and is accurate. The whole system bolts together for easy knock-down and repair.

"Our total cost to build it was about \$10,000 (Canadian). The biggest commercial model I know of holds 550 bu. and sells for about \$110,000. We generally apply phosphate fertilizer with the seed and nitrogen fertilizer in a band next to the seed. The tank is currently equipped with a single chute delivery system, but we plan to add a second chute so we can pull the tank behind an air drill and apply both seed and fertilizer at the same time. Despite the size of the tank, we haven't had any problems with soil compaction causing seed emergence problems."

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"We built everything on our air seeder cart from scratch. As far as we know, it's bigger than anything on the market," says Wilfred Moellenbeck.



Blower on back delivers seed and fertilizer to cultivator.

"Barn Art" Dresses Up Old Windows

Instead of replacing a pair of broken windows on their hip roof barn, Grant and Beth Anderson decided to cover them up with a bit of "barn art" that's getting a lot of attention.

One of the "fake" windows shows a couple of cats at play. A cow looks out of the other one.

Beth simply cut a piece of plywood the size of the window frame, painted it, and then mounted it right over the old window.

After cutting out the animal shapes in paper, she traced them onto the plywood. One of the cats was on a separate piece of plywood so it could be cut out and hung from the window.

"I'm hoping to someday find the time to cover the other two windows on the barn front. My plans for them include an owl and a moose, just to add extra character," Beth says.

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Beth Anderson created her "Barn Art" as a way to avoid replacing broken windows.