



Straw chopper slow-down kit eliminates the need to take the chopper off when harvesting corn and also extends chopper life. Unit spreads corn residue safely by limiting the distance and speed that it's thrown out.

## Deere Combines Benefit From Straw Chopper Slow-Down Kit

John Deere 20 and 00 series combines perform better in corn with a straw chopper slow-down kit, says manufacturer D&C, Inc. in Dayton, Iowa. The slow-down kit eliminates the need to take the chopper off when harvesting corn and extends chopper life. The 45 percent speed reduction is made possible by reducing the combine's 12-in. pulley down to a 6-in. pulley, according to D&C, Inc. owner Don Campbell.

"These old combine choppers will throw cobs half a mile and at a rate of speed that will take the paint off of other tractors and wagons," Campbell says. "I've had custom-

ers who aren't even farmers come and buy kits to give to their farmer neighbors because they've had the windows of their houses knocked out and ended up with cobs all over their nice lawns."

The kit takes less than 30 min. to install and changes speeds in seconds. It spreads corn residue safely by limiting the distance and speed that it is projected.

Campbell charges \$250 plus shipping. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, D&C, Inc., Box 348, Dayton, Iowa 50530 (ph/fax 515 547-2659).

## Liquid Fish Boosts Soil Fertility, Yields

Everything but the file is what Kurt Dramm says he puts into his Liquid Fish Fertilizer. Plants don't seem to mind if they don't get the choice cuts. They love the stuff.

Customers report dramatic increases in soil nutrient availability, healthier plants and enhanced disease immunity. Even bugs appear less attracted to treated plants.

"We had a test garden behind our plant last year, and the grasshoppers were all over the path, but not in the garden," recalls Dramm. "Customers have told us that soybean aphids don't invade fields fed with liquid fish, but are all over the neighbor's fields."

Farmer running test plots have shown a 15 percent increase in protein levels in treated alfalfa and a 4-ton increase in sugar beets.

Even more important to a sugar beet producer is a 1 percent increase in sugar content. A \$10 to \$12 per acre treatment increased the net by \$200 per acre.

Dramm gets his fish parts from commercial fishermen on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Unlike fish emulsions, which are heat processed and often involve removal of oils and proteins for industrial uses, Dramm uses a cold process and removes nothing. The fish are ground, allowing the natural enzymes in the fish to digest the flesh and liquefy it. During 3 to 4 months of fermentation, the bones are also liquefied into a readily absorbable form of calcium.

Once fully fermented, the liquid fish is screened and prepared for shipping. Xanthan



Robert Bokenfohr modified the top half of his truck box endgate so that he can flip it up and out of the way. It's no problem to reach in while standing at the back of the box to scrape out the corners.

## Modified Endgate Simplifies Unloading

Unloading grain is made more difficult by the need to clean out truck box corners, but a Morinville, Alberta farmer has made the task a lot easier. He altered his truck box endgate so that it's no problem to reach in while standing at the back of the box to scrape out the corners.

Robert Bokenfohr horizontally split his wooden endgate in two, so that when it's in the closed position, the top half slightly overlaps the bottom, sealing the joint. When unloading the last bit of the load, he can flip the top half of the box up and out of the way, thanks to a hinge. An old hockey stick with a

nail in it drops into a hole to keep the top section in the up position. The remaining lower half is just below chovel level, so he can easily reach in and shovel out the corners.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Bokenfohr, R.R. 2, Morinville, Alberta, Canada T8R 1P5 (ph 780 939-3329).



Drammatic Liquid Fish Fertilizer is shipped in 5-gal. and 55-gal. amounts for small gardeners and greenhouses and in 250 and 5,000-gal. lots for larger growers.

## Simple Wind Generator Made From Automotive Alternator

Robert Vargo made a cheap wind generator by using a car alternator and large fan. It's big enough to power his electric water heater.

"Alternators produce 110-volt AC current and then convert it to 12-volt DC," he points out. "I tapped into the 110-volt current and ran that directly to the water heater."

He mounted the simple generator on top of his house. "I used a 100-amp alternator that you could find at a junkyard for about \$25. The base was made from scrap angle iron."

He says newer alternators usually put out more than 100 amps, but the older ones are easier to find and less expensive, and they're easier to mount, too. If you have an old auto-

motive generator, you could use that and put the 12-volt DC power through an inverter to change it to 110-volt AC.

He says older alternators with a regular V-belt need a wind speed of 10 mph or more to keep the current flowing, but the new ones, with serpentine belts, can maintain a 110-volt output at speeds of less than 10 mph.

If you're going to put together a homemade generating system, Vargo suggests putting a regulator on the alternator so it kicks off when the fan speed slows too much to maintain a constant 110-volt output.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert J. Vargo, 2678 110th St., Apt. 1A, Luck, Wis. 54853 (ph 715 472-8043).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our Website at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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