



Elevator faces backward and its bottom "drive" end is raised just enough to unload silage into silo blower.

Elevator Conversion Makes Silo Filling Easier

Milton Ruppert, Nokomis, Ill., modified an old ear corn elevator so it can be used to load bagged silage into a silo blower to fill a stave silo. He did the work for his son-in-law Roger Bauman, a dairyman.

One end of the elevator is fitted with an 8-ft. long wooden hopper. Bauman uses his skid loader or tractor scoop to move silage from a sausage-type storage bag into the elevator to fill up the silo. An automatic feed bunk system feeds silage in the silo to Roger's cattle. "It saves Roger a lot of time, because he can load enough silage into the silo so he doesn't have to go out every day," says Milton.

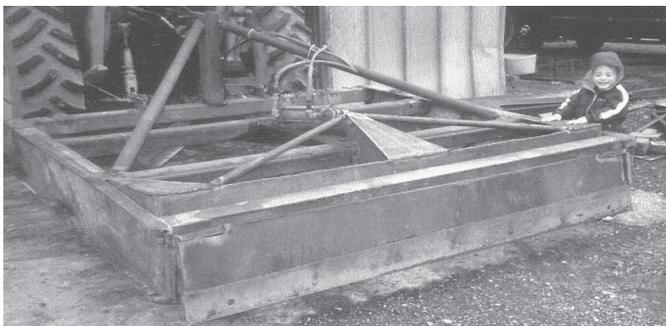
The elevator faces backward and its bottom "drive" end is raised just enough to unload silage into the blower. Its drive chain is operated by an orbit motor. The same tractor that operates the silo blower is also used to operate the orbit motor. A valve is used to control the motor's speed.



Baumann uses his skid loader to load silage from a sausage-type storage bag into the elevator to fill up the silo.

He started with a 40-ft. long elevator and cut 15 ft. off one end. He removed the chain and reversed it so that the chain drives from the bottom end of the elevator, powered by an orbit motor.

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Hinged box blade on back extends about 2 in. below four angled blades on front. Box blade is raised and lowered by a hydraulic cylinder that mounts in middle of frame.

Combination Box Blade And Finishing Blade

"It does a splendid job of both leveling the ground and spreading material," says Michael Breazeale, Collinsville, Miss., about the 3-pt. mounted combination box blade and finishing blade he built out of scrap metal.

The rig measures 7 ft. wide and deep and has a square frame built from 12-in. steel I-beams. Cross members inside the the frame are made from 1/2-in. thick, 4-in. sq. tubing.

The unit is designed with four angled blades on front - two that roll the material out and two that bring it back in toward the middle, leaving a 16-in. wide gap. On back there's a hinged box blade that extends about 2 in. below the blades in front. It's raised and lowered by a hydraulic cylinder that mounts in the middle of the frame and operates off tractor hydraulics. As Breazeale drives forward he can raise the hinged blade to whatever height he wants to spread the material. When he backs up, the blade is rigid.

He also installed a hydraulic cylinder on the 3-pt. top link, and another cylinder in place of the original screw-type adjuster.

He uses an International Harvester 50 hp industrial tractor to pull the rig.

"It does a beautiful job of leveling yards and driveways," says Breazeale. "I use it in my custom business. I can shape up a yard in

no time. I use the angled blades to cut loose fill and can set the rear blade at whatever height I want. Once I get the box full of material, I can raise the rear blade without raising the angled blades and spread the material out. The cutting edges on the angled blades are off a road grader and are set 2 in. below the bottom of the I-beam frame. I cut off the inside lip of the I-beams. The outside lip serves as a slide.

"I spent about \$700 to build it. I bought used steel cheap. My biggest expense was for the cylinders. I added hydraulics to the tractor after I bought it."

The front two angled blades extend 12 in. in front of the 3-pt. hitch. "If I have to work some hard ground, I can retract the top link cylinder all the way until the front two blades form a downward point that tears up the ground. I can make a beautiful V-shaped ditch with it," says Breazeale.

To keep the front end of the tractor from lifting up, he used 4-in. sq. tubing to build a heavy bumper that mounts on front of the tractor.

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Hog Feeder Fuels Corn Stove

This old hog feeder works great to fuel a corn burning stove. Mounted on skids, it's light enough to pull behind a 4-wheeler or small pickup, says Lynn Wrosch, Onaga, Kansas.

The 9-ft. high, 5-ft. dia. bin holds up to 85 bu. of corn and still has the hog feeder's easy-to-fill, large top opening. However, Wrosch removed the cast iron bottom part of the feeder and bolted on a metal cone that he had custom built by a local manufacturer. Corn discharges through a 5-in. dia. slide gate. He also painted the feeder with gray primer paint.

He used 2-in. dia. pipe to build four legs as well as a pair of skids. The legs are reinforced by 3/4-in. dia. pipe and are bolted onto the feeder.

"It's a simple, low-cost way to fuel corn burning stoves," says Wrosch. "I dump the corn into 5-gal. buckets to carry into the house. It's big enough to supply 1 1/2 to 2 month's supply for a corn stove. I use an auger wagon to fill it and a stepladder to check the grain level.

"My biggest expense was for the cone, which adds about 5 bu. to the feeder's total capacity. I paid about \$200 for it."

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Modified hog feeder mounts on skids and is light enough to pull behind a 4-wheeler or small pickup. "It works great to store corn for burning," says Lynn Wrosch.



Homemade pressure washer mounts on a homemade, 2-wheeled cart. The pump is operated by a 5 hp electric motor.

"Put Together" Pressure Washer

Bob Greenwood, Morrisonville, Ill., gets a lot of good service out of his homemade pressure washer that mounts on a 2-wheeled cart. He made the cart and bought the pump, which is operated by a 5 hp electric motor that he already had.

"It's lightweight which makes it easy to use anywhere, and it puts out a powerful stream of water," says Greenwood.

The unit rides on a pair of small rubber wheels. He used channel iron to build a frame for the motor, which belt-drives the pressure pump.

"I use it outside our shop to clean tractors,

planters, combines and other equipment. I plug the motor's extension cord into the 220-volt outlet in our shop. I had been driving to a local car wash in town to clean my machinery, but that got old.

"I already had the motor which we had been using on a bin unloading auger, and I also had the wheels and axle. I bought the pressure pump at a sale for about \$100. Commercial pressure washers of comparable capacity sell for \$600 or more."

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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.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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