



Clarke Machine's 24-row, 20-in. spacing header features a double drive system, in which the four inside rows on each side are driven separately off a gearbox. The other eight rows on each side are shaft-driven off both ends of the header.

World's Biggest 20-In. Row Corn Header

"As far as we know it's the biggest corn header in the world in terms of rows," says Dave Clarke about his company's new 24-row, 20-in. spacing header. It was on display at the recent Husker Harvest Show near Grand Island, Neb.

The big header requires the biggest combines on the market – class nine models like Cat's Lexion 590R. The header is equipped

with the Clarke's model 5000 row units, knife rolls, hydraulic decks, and bi-fold poly row dividers. It also features a 4-sensor head sight header height control and an 18-in. dia., 2-piece auger system.

"It may not be the widest header on the market, but as far as we know it's the first one with 24 rows on 20-in. spacings," says Clarke. "Caterpillar sells an 18-row, 30-in. header that's wider than ours, and for years

we've sold a 24-row, 15-in. header as well as a 16-row, 30-in. header. So far we've just built one prototype of the new model which we plan to test this fall."

To reduce stress on the header's end drives, Clarke has developed a double-drive system in which the 4 inside rows on each side are driven separately off a gearbox. The other 8 rows on each side are shaft-driven off both ends of the header.

"We use heavy components so we don't think we'll have shaft trouble," says Clarke.

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Old Combine Makes Great Deer Stand

Rick Knudsvig harvests deer with his 914 IH pull-type combine. The old harvester has found a new life as Knudsvig's mobile deer stand.

"It makes a great wildlife viewing spot," says Knudsvig. "I can move it where I want and, thanks to the heater, it's always warm. The windows lift out of the way so it can even be used to bow hunt."

Knudsvig got the idea when he saw the well-used combine sitting on a local dealer's lot. He bought it and gutted the backside of the grain hopper to make room for the enclosed cabin that fits across the top of the hopper.

"I dropped a couple of pallets across the bottom auger and put plywood sheets over them," he explains. "I framed out the cabin with 2 by 4's and steel siding and fitted it with windows I found in a dumpster."

Knudsvig then lifted it into place on top of the hopper and installed a door on the backside. To climb up, he uses the original ladder mounted on the side of the combine.

"It puts me about 12 ft. above ground, which gives me a good view, even in tall



Rick Knudsvig used sheet metal and plywood to build a portable deer stand on top of an old IH 914 pull-type combine.

grass on our CRP acres," says Knudsvig. "It is mobile, yet stable, and doesn't wobble even in winds. Last spring I pulled it over to an area where sharp tail grouse do their mating ritual. I enjoy it for wildlife viewing

most of all."
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Rebuild "Rush Job" Pleased 100-Year-Old Dad

Not many tractor restorations get done in 40 days. But that's the deadline Harry Hutchins faced with his dad's 100th birthday coming up August 11, 2008. Hutchins recalled that spring that the 1945 WC Allis Chalmers his dad bought new 63 years earlier was sitting in a pasture rusting away. He and a good friend, Bill Gardner, decided to restore it as a birthday present.

"They dragged it out of the brush on May 20, and on June 29 they were able to start working on it," recalls Hutchins' wife Dorothy. "They had 40 days to turn that rust bucket into the gift of a lifetime."

The two got busy searching the internet and antique tractor magazines for parts. Another friend, Richard Grzegorzowicz, rebuilt the motor, and a mechanic pal and neighbor, Dale Bishop, helped out.

The only part they couldn't locate was a pulley for the pto. It was needed to run the mounted mower, which they also restored.

"Bill and I put in about 700 hours cleaning up the frame and parts, and then Bill painted them all," says Hutchins. "But it was worth every second to see Dad's face light up. He just kept saying, 'It's unbelievable... just unbelievable.'"



Hutchins' 100-year-old father was thrilled to sit in the restored WC that he bought new 63 years ago.

The best part may have been helping his dad take the WC for a drive. "I told him we would do it in reverse of when I was a kid," explains Hutchins. "He was in the seat, and I reached around and put it in gear, let the clutch out, moved the throttle half way up, and he drove it down the road."

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This is what the tractor looked like when it showed up.