

Chopper Heads For Ear Corn Only

You can turn your self-propelled forage chopper into an ear corn only chopper. All it takes is an adapter plate from Jim Lindquist to let your favorite ear corn snapper corn head do double duty on the chopper. Since Lindquist built the first one for himself and his brother, the word has spread on how well they work.

"We doubled our production this year and are running hard to keep up," he says. "We have models that fit John Deere, Claas, Cat, Lexicon and the AGCO brands. We also have a unit that fits older Case/IH harvesters, but not the newer New Holland and Case/IH models."

Lindquist's adapter plates let operators mount everything from 4-row to 12-row combine ear corn snapper heads, as well as grain platforms and draper heads. The adapters offer positive feed from the head auger to the chopper feed rolls.

"Grinding earlage doesn't take as much power as grinding the whole plant," says Lindquist. "This makes it possible to use a larger head and faster speeds."

Lindquist says he came up with his first

adapter plate after seeing the impact of chopped ear corn on cattle in beef feedlots and dairy operations. At the time, he and his brother had a beef feedlot.

"The animals are more comfortable and playful," he says. "A dairyman who was using ear corn said his cows lasted longer in the milking herd."

The only problem was the hassle. It had to be picked, piled and ground later. Lindquist came up with an adapter for the forage chopper he and his brother used, attached the corn head and started chopping.

Hesston Company asked him to design an adapter plate for the field Queen Chopper line. Now he provides adapter plates for farmers and custom harvesters alike.

Lindquist makes four base models, all priced at \$5,600. Parts needed to connect individual corn heads may be extra.

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Adapter plate lets you use a corn head on a self-propelled forage chopper, turning it into an ear corn only chopper. Adapters are available to fit several brands.



"Recycled" High Moisture Harvestore Stores Dry Grain

Walt and Gerry Ackermann needed more grain storage and they had an unused Harvestore. After making a few changes top and bottom, they had a 7,000-bu. storage bin with air-drying capability.

"We can put 18 to 20 percent moisture corn in and dry it down with a fan and no heat," says Walt.

At 80 plus years, Walt still takes an active role in the farm operation and hated to see the Harvestore go to waste. It had been put up when the farm included a dairy operation.

Initially, the Ackermanns simply cut two filler holes and put three air vents in the roof with a rotating ventilator in the center hole. They also replaced the 5-in. floor auger with an 8-in. auger and used the silo for dry grain storage. When pulling grain out, they relied on a grain vac to finish emptying out what hadn't settled into the auger sump. After Walt's son Gerry had hip surgery, climbing in and out was a problem. More changes were made with the addition of a false floor and a new entry door for even greater value.

"We closed up the original doorway at the base with a steel plate, leaving room for the auger and air plenum," explained

Walt.

A 5 hp, 20-in. fan pulls sufficient air through the grain to the floor of the 20 by 32-ft. structure to dry corn down to 14 percent moisture. The floor was installed level with the auger's grain sump. A new entry door with a grain sump was installed above the original. A sweep auger was installed on the floor to clear the grain floor.

"Our local silo dealer was great to work with and could tell us what size supports we needed for the floor of a silo with this capacity," says Gerry. "But it was our flooring contractor who told us to pull the air down and out for better drying."

Gerry gives much credit for managing stored grain to a computer program he uses to run the fan. "It tells me how many days to run the fan based on ambient air temperature and humidity," says Gerry. "When we put in 20 percent moisture grain, we just turn it on and run it until the grain is dried down."

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Walt and Gerry Ackermann converted an old Harvestore into a 7,000-bu. storage bin with air-drying capability. Photo shows new entry door with auger and air plenum.



A 5 hp, 20-in. fan pulls air down through drying floor in the 20 by 32-ft. structure.

Front-Mount Rake Attached To Tractor Loader

"It lets me do two jobs at once and eliminates the need for another tractor and operator," says Tom Wivell, Covington, Penn., who modified a Frontier V-wheel rake to fit the front-end loader on his Deere 6603 tractor. He uses it to rake to the center of the tractor and pulls a Krone 1500 round baler behind.

"I use it to rake two 12-ft. windrows into one. I've made more than 600 big round bales with this system with almost no problems," says Wivell. "I came up with the idea because I don't always have someone to help me and wanted to get more done by myself. I figured it was easier to mount the rake on the tractor's loader than to build a frame under the tractor to support the rake. The extra weight of the rake hasn't hurt the loader at all. Another big benefit is that I'm not running over any hay like with a conventional rear-pulled rake. That results in

less leaf loss."

The 14-wheel rake extends about 15 ft. in front of the loader and clamps to the loader arm brackets. A single hydraulic cylinder controls the entire unit.

The rake was originally equipped with a tongue and hydraulic cylinder that was used to fold the rake in or out. He removed the tongue and bolted a round bale spear frame - originally designed to mount on a front-end loader - on back of the rake. He re-mounted the hydraulic cylinder on top of the rake where it's used to fold the rake in or out. He also replaced the two rigid wheels on back of the rake with caster wheels, allowing the rake to slide along the ground during the folding process.

"I used it for the first time this year on 350 acres of hay and am really happy with it," says Wivell, who makes 1,000 to 1,500 round bales per year. "I wrap most of the bales with plastic so the hay doesn't



Wivell modified a Frontier V-wheel rake to fit the front-end loader on his Deere tractor. He uses it to rake to the center of tractor, pulling a Krone round baler behind.

have to be dry when I rake it. The rake folds to the same width as the tractor. It's a little tricky learning how to operate it.

"To hook up all I have to do is drop two pins and plug in the hydraulic hoses. I had to run hydraulics to the front of the loader so that I can swing the rake in or out and also raise the wheels up or down. I mounted auxiliary hydraulic valves on

one side of the tractor where I use a mid-mount valve to operate the loader. I use a toggle switch in the cab to operate the loader or to swing the rake in or out or raise it up or down."

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