

Rebuilt Spreader Works “Better Than New”

When the box on a customer’s Knight manure spreader wore out, repair shop owner Al Kilburg, Zwingle, Iowa, replaced it with a heavier-built one, adding a few improvements along the way.

The spreader still has the original wheels, axles and drive mechanism.

“Many farmers want to keep their old spreader instead of spending the money for a new one. By rebuilding, the customer was able to save a lot of money,” says Kilburg. “We spent about \$9,000 to rebuild it. A new spreader of comparable capacity would have cost \$12,000 to \$14,000 and wouldn’t have been built nearly as heavy.”

He started with a 15-year old Knight 7716 swinger manure spreader that was 14 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 5 ft. high. The box V’s down to a 24-in. dia. auger at the bottom, which moves manure forward to a set of hammers mounted on the left side. A hydraulically operated door opens to let manure into the hammers.

The spreader’s sides and bottom were originally built from 3/16-in. thick material and were badly rusted. Kilburg cut the old box apart in sections and used a 4-ton overhead crane to lift them off the frame.

He built a new box on the shop floor, using heavier 1/4-in. thick steel to build the sides and bottom. The new box is 8 in. higher than the old one, with a length of 3 1/2-in. sq. tubing welded around the top edge of the box. He used the same crane to set the new box into position before welding it on.

“The box’s original sides were topped with wood, which took a beating from skid loader buckets. The steel tubing does a much better job of withstanding the blows,” says Kilburg.

He mounted a 1/4-in. thick steel plate on front of the box and bolted a pair of 4-in. high tapered splashguards onto the front and back end of the box. He also rebuilt the back end, installing 3 new bearings in the chain-drive mechanism. And he straightened out any



Before and after photos of the Knight manure spreader rebuilt by Al Kilburg. Spreader still has the original wheels, axles and drive mechanism.

parts of the auger flighting that were bent.

“We applied a 2-part epoxy coating inside the box to keep moisture away from the metal. And the spreader’s rear end is bolted on so if anything has to be reworked inside

the box, it can be removed,” notes Kilburg.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Al Kilburg, Kilburg Welding, 10278 Manderscheid Road, Zwingle, Iowa 52079 (ph 563 773-8894).

Simple Tube Harvests Hot Air

Hot air rises, but R.R. Johnson has a simple way of returning it to the floor instead of leaving it up by the ceiling.

“I first saw the idea when visiting New York City many years ago,” says Johnson. “I was in a tall building and felt hot air blowing down on me. I asked the doorman about it, and he explained that the building design included a shaft that gathered the hot air that had risen to the top of the building. A fan in the shaft pulled the hot air back to the ground floor.”

Johnson has incorporated the concept in a small house he is redoing on a limited budget. Though only installed in a single room, he says he’s enjoying the benefit of the practice.

“Even my wife says it’s a great thing to do

and definitely makes the room more comfortable,” he says.

Johnson, who says he values function over form, simply wedged a 4-in. diameter carpet tube between the floor and the ceiling. Holes were drilled in the tube at the top and the bottom. A small, five-watt fan, intended for use over a cat’s litter box, provides the draw. Installed in the bottom of the tube, it pulls warm air down and pushes it out the holes in the bottom.

“Any small fan would work,” says Johnson. “The air return could be made to look like a column or integrated into a bookcase.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R. R. Johnson, 30 Chicken Hollow Rd., Newport, Penn. 17074 (ph 717 567-3810).

“Crust Buster” Stops Bin Plug-Ups

The chance that you’ll ever have to go into a grain bin to break up clogs is greatly reduced with this simple but effective new safety device invented by Minnesota bin dealer, Dave Broskoff.

Called the “Crust Buster”, it’s designed to be installed before you fill the bin. The unit consists of lengths of 1/2-in. dia. steel rod forming a tripod that measures 20 in. wide at the base and 2 ft. high. A center-mounted rod fits into a peg in the bin’s sump that’s normally used to support a sweep auger. A 3-in. spike on top of the tripod breaks the crust, and the unit’s sloping sides push it off to the side so grain can flow through.

The Crust Buster fits all size bins and sells for \$100 plus S&H.



A 3-in. spike on top of tripod breaks the crust, and unit’s sloping sides push it off to the side so grain can flow through.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Broskoff Structures, P.O. Box 243, Geneva, Minn. 56035 ph 507 256-7501; www.broskoffstructures.com.

Expandable Foam Used To Fill Concrete, Asphalt Cracks

Roger Meihak fills cracks in his asphalt driveway and concrete floors with expandable spray insulating foam.

“First, you need to take extra time to make sure the cracks are clean. A pressure washer works well for that. Then make sure the cracks are dry and will stay dry for several hours. Fill the cracks fully with the spray foam. After allowing the foam to dry, remove the excess and cut a shallow ‘V’ in the top. Then apply a thin coat of elastomeric pourable crack filler.”

As soon as you’ve poured the crack filler

on, sprinkle some no. 2 quartzite grit over the crack filler, says Meihak. “The crack filler will soak up some of the grit, so you need to use enough grit to fill the crack to level. The grit provides a wear surface and also covers the stark black crack filler, allowing it to blend in with both cement and blacktop.”

He used Sealbest brand pourable crack filler. “I bought it at Menards for about \$8 a gallon,” he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger W. Meihak, 10150 223rd St. No., Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 (ph 651 433-2600).



Cracks in asphalt driveways and concrete floors can be filled with expandable spray insulating foam topped with crack filler and grit, says Roger Meihak.

Stretched Deere Makes Handy “Grandkid Hauler”

“I turned a Deere 116 garden tractor into what I call my grandkid hauler,” says Dave Neises of Dubuque, Iowa. “It has a box on back for kids to ride in, and a second seat. It also has dual rear wheels.”

He started out with an old Deere 116 garden tractor that was given to him. The mower deck was shot, but the engine and hydrostatic transmission still worked good.

He “stretched” the tractor by cutting it in half, behind the steering wheel, and then welding in a 2-ft. section of frame that he cut off another identical tractor. A length of welded-on angle iron under the frame provides reinforcement. He also lengthened the rods so they extend back to the transmission. Then he moved the tractor’s original seat to one side and added a second seat off another garden tractor. To make a seat

belt for the add-on rider, he simply bolted an ordinary pants belt to the tractor frame.

The homemade wooden box on back measures 42 in. wide, 24 in. long, and 8 in. high. Two kids can sit in it facing backward while dangling their legs under a 1-in. dia. pipe that runs across the back of the box. “The box is painted Deere green and has rounded corners so it really looks nice,” says Neises.

The hydrostatic transmission, relocated 2 ft. behind its original position, is belt-driven off a jackshaft that Neises installed 2 ft. behind the tractor’s engine. Another belt runs from the engine to the jackshaft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Neises, 20987 Mud Lake Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001 (ph 563 552-2716; dfeises@gmail.com).



“My grandkids love riding along with me,” says Dave Neises, who stretched out a Deere 116 garden tractor and added a second seat. He cut the tractor in half behind the steering wheel, then welded in a 2-ft. section of frame that he cut off another identical tractor.