

Home-Built 16-Row Corn Head Speeds Up Harvest

"I don't think any one's ever built a corn head with more rows. Really speeds up harvest," says John Ricke, Williams, Iowa, who merged two Deere 8-row corn heads to build a 16-row, 20-in. corn head that he mounted on his Deere 8820 combine.

Ricke merged a model 842 20-in. head that he already owned, and a model 843 30-in. head that he bought used. Most of the conversion work was done by Brad Bish, Giltner, Neb.

"It looks like it was factory-built and works just the way it was supposed to," says Ricke, who notes that there are wider heads but only one other one (built by a Texas farmer) has as many rows. Ricke has been planting and harvesting on 20-in. rows for the past 25 years. "It really lets me harvest fast. I mounted a 200 bu. extension on top of the combine's 250-bu. factory tank.

"The problem is that no one makes 20-in. corn heads any more and they never did make them bigger than 8 rows. Deere, Allis-Chalmers, and Massey-Ferguson all offered 20-in. corn heads in the 1970's but stopped making them. I paid \$6,000 for the used head and spent \$4,700 more for the conver-

sion. I also bought another used 8-row 20-in. head in case my 16-row header ever breaks down."

Bish stripped both headers down to the frame and rebuilt them. He hard surfaced the rolls and stripper plates, installed new gathering chains, and built new drive shafts for the row units. The drives and rollers are all the same. He built an extra snout and installed an oil bath for the auger drive chains on both ends of the header. He then welded the two headers together and reinforced the main frame with tapered channel iron on top and angle braces at the rear. The 16-row header uses the 843 header's quick-tach adapter.

Ricke set the 30.5 by 32 tires in closer to the combine so that it can straddle six rows. He built his own 16-row 20-in. corn planter from scratch by modifying a 12-row, 30-in. International 500 folding planter and mounting model 900 row units on it. He also built a 16-row rigid bar planter.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Ricke, 1715 Tolman Ave., Williams, Iowa 50271 (ph 515 854-2668).



Berry mounted 500-gal. tank and cradle on side of power unit and fitted 60-ft. sprayer boom to front toolbar holder.

DESIGN OF NEW IDEA POWER UNIT MADE SPRAYER CONVERSION RELATIVELY EASY

Uni-System 60-Ft. Sprayer

Kentucky farmer Tony Berry says mounting a spray boom and tank on his New Idea Uni-System power unit was a relatively easy conversion that lets him get more use out of the expensive machine.

"I had been operating both a combine and chopper off this Uni-System power unit for several years but I wasn't happy with the combine so I sold it and used only the chopper unit. That means I was only using the machine for about 3 weeks a year while chopping corn silage. I decided to try to find another use for the power unit.

"I found an old Uni-System toolbar carrier on a dealer's lot and mounted it on the front of the power unit. Then I mounted a 500 gal. tank and cradle, taken from my trailer sprayer, on the side of the power unit and fitted a 60-ft. Blumhardt sprayer boom to the front toolbar holder.

"I changed the 18.4 by 24 front tires to narrow 12.4 by 38 tires and made the back axle wider so the back wheels would track

the front wheels. The new axle was made out of 4 by 6-in. tubing. I also fitted the boom with a foam marker and I use a Micro Trak 3000 sprayer monitor.

"Because all New Idea power units have variable speed hydraulic pumps to run the wagon elevator on the picker unit, I was able to use a hydraulic spray pump. This lets me use a lever already in the cab to turn the pump on and off and change speed to control pressure.

"When I put my chopper unit back on I just leave the wide back axle in place and slide the chopper on from the side by removing the right wheel.

"I have been very satisfied with the performance of the sprayer. I experienced few problems and the only modifications required were to make narrow rims for the front tires and modifying the back axle."

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Ricke merged two Deere 8-row corn heads to build the 16-row, 20-in. corn head. He also mounted a 200-bu. extension on top of combine's 250-bu. factory tank.



Photo courtesy Country Guide

The Helgasons turned an 8-yard bucket from a damaged pull-type scraper into a 52-bu., 2-wheel "floating" grain bucket on their Deere 265 front-end loader.

2-Wheel "Floating" Grain Bucket

"We store grain in four 100 by 50-ft. Quonset storage sheds that have dirt floors covered by plastic. We needed a dust-free way to load grain fast without tearing the plastic," says Merv Helgason, Foam Lake, Sask., who removed an 8-yard bucket from a damaged pull-type scraper and turned it into a 52-bu., 2-wheel "floating" grain bucket on his Deere 265 self-leveling front-end loader.

The bucket originally was equipped with four wheels and was 85 1/2 in. wide, 26 in. high, and 74 in. deep. Helgason removed the wheels from the bucket, cut 24 in. off the front, and angled the sides back at a 45 degree angle. He added 14 in. of sheet metal on top at the rear to make the bucket 40 in. high. The last step was to add a quick-tach adapter and mount a set of 15-in. wheels which were taken from an old auger mover.

The bucket and loader are mounted on Helgason's Deere 4055 MFWD tractor.

"It lets one man fill a 2,000-bu. semi in

45 min. from the comfort of a tractor cab," says Helgason, who built the bucket with help from his father Joe, brother Bryan, and son Glenn. "We had been using an auger and hydraulic bin sweep, but the job took 2 hours and generated far more dust and sweat. A conventional bucket would hold only about 20 bu. of grain.

"To move grain, the bucket is set level with the ground and driven into the pile. The wheels keep the bucket about 1 1/2 in. above the ground. As the bucket begins to fill, the operator lifts it a few inches to reduce pressure on the tires. Then he tilts the bucket back slightly, finishes filling it up, and backs out. We had to shorten the bucket because it was too big and heavy for our front-end loader to lift. Even now when the bucket is full the loader has all it can do to lift it."

Helgason spent \$550 to build the bucket. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Merv Helgason, Box 503, Foam Lake, Sask. Canada S0A 1A0 (ph 306 272-3361).