



Feed Saver mounts on most combines and can be driven off either side.

Feed Residue Saver

You can save cobs only, or chaff, husklage and cobs with the Corbett-Sutton feed residue saver, first featured in FARM SHOW six years ago (Vol. 1, No. 4).

It's designed for universal mounting on self-propelled or pull type combines. The blower fan is reversible for operation on either side, depending on make and model of the combine.

Power to drive it (about 3 to 5 hp)

comes off the combine. A drive pulley allows it to operate separately or in conjunction with the straw chopper. The "saver" itself is designed to save chaff and everything else coming off the bottom sieve but it doesn't save straw. Suggested list is \$2,895.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Corbett-Sutton Feed Saver, Box 711, Watertown, S. Dak. 57201 (ph 605 886-5200).

Traveling Tub Grinder Saves Stalks For Feed

A traveling tub grinder built by Curry Farms, Atkinson, Neb., harvests cornstalks, husks, and cobs left in the field by the combine, turning the residue into low-cost feed for beef cows.

The super grinder picks up combine refuse where it's dumped by the combine between two out of every eight rows, also harvesting the stalks in the two rows as it works. It'll salvage about a ton of feed per acre, grinding the material and blowing it into trailing wagons. The material is stacked near the feedlot and mixed with ammonia and water to make a 10 to 12% protein feed.

Elmer Borer, who manages Curry Farms, says it's cheaper to pick up and grind in the field rather than haul refuse back and grind it in a separate operation. Since there was no machine on the market to do the job, they built one from the ground up.

The machine has a 5-ft. wide flail pickup that comes off a small Deere stacker machine. Refuse is booted up a conveyor chute and into the grinder tub. The tub comes from a Farmhand grinder, and the grinding components from a WHO Manufacturing in Colorado. After grinding, material is dumped onto a small conveyor belt that carries it to a Deere 38 chopper

blower mounted in back. The blower throws the material into trailing forage wagons.

All components are mounted on a trailer. Powered entirely by the pto (Borer uses a minimum 275 hp. tractor), the grinder is belt-driven except for the tub which rotates hydraulically. Copper coils on the trailer hitch cool oil in the grinder gearbox, which heats up more than under normal use.

"If conditions are wet, we have to go pretty slow because it's hard going," says Borer, noting that the traveling grinder has been in use for three years, harvesting about 500 acres a year. It'll gather about a ton of material off each acre. The machine is used through the fall and as long as possible into winter.

Borer says the ground-up residue is mixed half and half with corn silage and fed to cattle during summer months, or used as a back-up feed in the winter. Curry Farms recently sold their cattle herd so Borer would like to sell the machine. It costs about \$12,000 to build.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer Borer, Curry Farms, Atkinson, Neb. 68713 (ph 402 925-2334).



Vacuum chaff harvester sucks up piles of chaff and blows them into trailing truck.

Rem's Chaff-O-Matic

Chaff has been the main feed for Leo Redekop's 80-cow beef herd in Central Saskatchewan for the past two winters. With equipment he's invented to gather up chaff from grain fields, he's able to "harvest" about 145 tons of chaff in less time than it would take to harvest an equivalent 100 acres of hay.

"Last year, I was able to pick up enough chaff feed for the winter in 2½ days," Redekop told FARM SHOW. He dumps the chaff in big 60-ton stacks, covers them with plastic and treats the chaff with about 3½% ammonia by weight. The resulting feed — after 3 to 5 weeks — has a protein content of about 17% and about 53% TDN. "We've been able to feed treated chaff without any grain until calving time each of the past two winters because of the high protein and energy levels in the chaff. In a bad weather year, we might have to supplement with grain."

Redekop gets about a ton of chaff off 6 acres of 35 to 40 bu. wheat. A 60-ton stack will feed 18 cows for about 165 days. He self-feeds out of the 25 by 80-ft. stacks with an electric fence, rolling back the 40 by 100-ft. sheets of plastic as the cows eat. Weed seeds are sterilized, he says, by the ammonia treatment.

So how does he go about picking up the chaff off nearly 1,000 acres of harvested ground?

"We use a chaff blower which fits on our combine, and a dump wagon which pulls behind the combine. The wagon automatically dumps 600-lb. piles of chaff in the field as you combine," says Redekop, noting that both pieces of equipment are made by REM Manufacturing Ltd., in Swift Current, Sask.

After harvest the piles can be picked up whenever there's time. He says it doesn't hurt the chaff to get wet as long as it's picked up before it snows. "There are no worries about the weather or time constraints, as is the case with making hay," he notes.

When he first started collecting chaff, Redekop used a hand-operated grain vacuum to pick it up in the field but he found it too cumbersome and says it took too long. So, he designed a machine to pick up chaff — called the "Chaff-O-Matic" — which is now also manufactured by REM Manufacturing.

The machine looks like a big snow blower and uses the combination of a pickup reel and vacuum power to pick up the chaff. It's 10 ft. wide and picks up the 600 lbs. piles in 30 to 40 secs. It uses a combination of pto-power from the towing tractor and hydraulics to power the vacuum fan, pickup and the blower that loads the chaff into a trailing truck.

"We tow it behind a tractor and then tow a grain truck with a specially-built box extension behind it. It'll hold 3 to 3½ tons and, once it's full, the operator simply unhooks the truck and drives it back to the pile," explains Redekop.

A few Saskatchewan farmers who have also been feeding chaff use the REM chaff blower on their combine but pull a forage wagon behind the combine and handle the chaff while they're combining. Redekop says he doesn't feel there's time at harvest to do more than harvest. He likes the convenience of being able to pick up the chaff whenever he has time.

Redekop used his first prototype machine last year to pick up his own chaff, plus another 3,000 acres for nearby farmers. This year, REM Manufacturing began building the Chaff-O-Matic, which comes with blueprints for the grain box extension. The Chaff-O-Matic sells for \$7,500. A blower and dump wagon combination to handle the chaff as it comes off the combine sells for about \$4,600 (Canadian).

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