

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products.

Vol. 3, No. 3, 1979

"CHEAPER THAN PROPANE AT PRESENT PRICES"

Crop Dryer Burns Shelled Corn

by Mark Newhall



Corn is poured into prototype corn-burning crop dryer by hand. Production models will be fed by grain auger.

"We've got to solve our own energy problems in agriculture and every farmer in the U.S. has the tools at hand to do it," says Nebraska crop dryer manufacturer Bill Fritz who's telling farmers to "take that corn or other grain you're selling below cost and burn it."

Burn it?

You bet—in a first-of-its kind crop drying furnace which Fritz, president of Middle State Manufacturing, headquartered at Columbus, expects to have in production and ready for sale early this fall.

Convinced that corn and other grain can be used economically for crop drying, Fritz began experimenting with a corn-fired crop dryer early last fall.

"If you burn it efficiently, corn has enough btu's to compete favorably with propane at present price levels," explains Fritz, who adds that his prototype dryer has performed "with flying colors. So far as we know, it's the only crop dryer designed specifically to use corn or other grain as a fuel for drying."

The revolutionary Middle State corn-burning furnace is patterned after the company's new corn stalk burner which we told you about in FARM SHOW earlier this year (Vol. 3, No. 1). Since last fall, a prototype furnace fueled with shelled corn has been under test at Middle State's manufacturing facility in St. Edward, Neb. Plant manager Bill Moran, who has been responsible for much of the new crop dryer's development, told FARM SHOW that "corn burns with the intensity of propane and is an easy-to-handle fuel."

Here, according to Moran, is how the corn-fired dryer works:

Outside air is pulled down through the top of the furnace and mixed with the flame at the bottom of the burner. Heat is then drawn directly off the

(Continued on next page)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Build yourself a solar still • Twin engine pickup boasts 700 hp • Air powered opener for machinery shed doors • Whole crop harvesting system from Sweden • Turn used twine into money • Inflatable cushion "blows" down big trees • New milk sample pregnancy test • "Do everything" wagon hauls grain, silage, manure • Galvanized baling wire • Wood scoop shovel.