Flipping control lever to left drops the stone into the operating or sharpening position. Flipping lever to far right raises the stone when not sharpening, reducing chance of stone damage.

FITS MOST MODELS WITH CURVED KNIVES

New-Style Sharpener for Forage Choppers

You can put a razor-sharp edge on forage chopper knives with the machine operating at full capacity, thanks to Murphy Engineering’s new-style sharpener.

By sharpening the knives while the chopper is operating, material moving through the machine acts as a lubricant and all knives remain true and aligned to cut equally and evenly, explains Charles Murphy, inventor and manufacturer. “Only when chopping dry hay do we recommend sharpening the knives with the machine running dry,” he points out.

To sharpen the knives, you simply flip a lever to lower the stone against the knives. After about 10 minutes of operation, you flip the lever to raise the stone up and out of the way so it won’t be damaged by rocks or stones.

The Murphy sharpener sells for $575 and fits most forage harvesters with curved knives, including Hess, Fox, Gehl, Field Queen and New Holland. It takes only about ten minutes to replace a worn out stone and install a new one.

“There’s no advantage in keeping the stone in the down position to provide continuous sharpening,” Murphy explains. “There’s too much danger of rocks or trap metal damaging the stone and it’s not necessary since the knives retain their sharpness if the edges are simply trimmed up two or three times during the day.”

Murphy figures his sharpener will pay for itself the first year in reduced fuel, time and maintenance. “You’ll also get 15 to 25% more feed in your silo by keeping the chopper knives sharp,” he notes.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Murphy Engineering Co., 1301 S. Bebe, Wichita, Kan. 67209 (ph. 316 942-1673 or 913 263-4010).

CATCHES MICE WITHOUT BAIT

Can You Use A “Tin Cat”?

Just as every farm needs a good tom cat or two, it might ought to have a few “Tin Cats”—a new-style mouse trap that uses curiosity instead of cheese to catch up to 30 mice at a time.

Upon entering the device, which resembles a metal cigar box with wings, the mouse automatically walks into a delicately balanced walkway. After a stop or two, weight of the mouse topples the walkway, slams the door closed on the entrance to the box, and deposits the mouse unceremoniously into an area at the bottom of the box from which there is no return. Within an instant, the “tin cat” automatically resets itself and is ready for the next victim.

In developing this “better” mass mouse trap, its designers at the Woodstream Corp., originators of the famous Victor mouse trap, added an extra feature for those mice who may not be quite as curious as most. This sneaky feature is a pair of L-shaped “wings”, extending outward from the length of the box. “Field tests have shown that mice who ignore the hole in the first place are stopped by the wing, where they then redirect themselves to the area of the trap entrance. Inevitably they end up inside the Tin Cat,” explains David Nicholas, advertising manager.

Sells for $6.49 and will be available at most hardware stores now handling the Victor line of mouse traps.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Woodstream Corp., Littler, Penn. 17543 (ph. 717 626-2125).