

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products.

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“Koepke Built” Combine Harvests Corn, Stalks

By Mark Jacobs,
Associate Editor



The Koepke-built combine features a 729A Uni-Sheller mounted on a trailer. Power for the combine, and the trailing chopper, comes from the tractor's 1,000 rpm pto.

The Koepke Brothers, Oconomowoc, Wis., harvest corn and stalks in one pass with an ingenious home-built rig featuring a New Idea Uni-Sheller mounted on a trailer and a tag-along Fox forage harvester.

“We’ve used the rig for three seasons and really like it,” says Alan, who with his brothers David and James designed the “Koepke Built” machine for their 350-head dairy operation.

“We fill our 30 by 80 silo with the chopped stalks for feeding to the dry cows and bred heifers. We built the machine because leaving the stalks in the field wastes a lot of valuable feed — especially now with higher grain prices and the shortage of feed. We figure using the stalks for feed saves us about \$10,000 a year in feed costs. The stalks aren’t as high quality as corn silage so we do add grain when we feed the stalks.

“The optimum time to shell and chop is when the corn is at 25% moisture and the stalks are at 60% moisture. It takes about 100 acres of corn stalks to fill the silo. Once the silo is full and the stalks are dryer, we remove the recutter from the chopper

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