

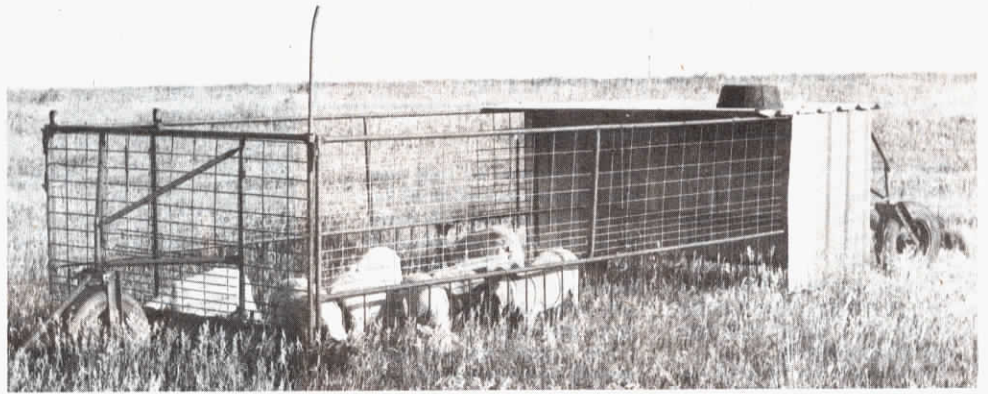
## Sheep "Lawn Mower"

It's not unusual to mow lawns and farm yards with sheep, goats, or other farm livestock but the problem has always been to get animals to "mow" where it's most needed. South Dakota farmer Raymond Diede, of Utica, says he's solved the problem with a sheep pen on wheels.

The cage is 8 ft. wide, 20 ft. long, 5 ft. high and mounted on three castor wheels. "One person can easily roll the cage to a new area by simply pulling on the handle attached to the single front wheel," explains Diede, who designed the "sheep mower" primarily to keep the grass in his orchard under control. "We usually move the cage about three times a day. It lets us control where the sheep go without building a fence and keeps them from reaching the bottom branches of fruit trees."

Diede used 1-in. pipe for the frame. The top section of each side is made of hog panels. The lower section is framed down to 5 in. above the ground so the sheep can graze a little farther around the outside of the pen. Shade and shelter are provided by metal roofing panels over one end. A water heater tank cut in half and welded to the frame serves as a waterer.

The type and length of grass, and number of sheep in the "mower", determine how often it will have to be moved. Diede says he's put as many as seven sheep in the cage at one time.



## Driveway Alarm Signals When Cars Drive In

Harold Kleiss, Tesotum, Ill., rigged up an electric eye for ringing the door chimes in his home, letting the family know when someone drives into the farmstead.

"Before we had it, we just didn't hear the people driving up because of having the doors closed, air conditioner running and all," Kleiss explains.

Before rigging up the electric eye, he'd used the same kind of pressure hose and bell alarm used by filling stations as a driveway alarm. "The trouble with that system was that heavy farm machinery would grind the hose against rocks in the driveway and wear out the hose in short order," explains Kleiss.

He solved the problem with an electric eye alarm, mounting one eye on an electric pole near



the gate and the other on a machine shed about 200 ft. away. (Son Jerry is pointing to the eye on the machine shed in the photo). Wires going to the house are buried underground.

"We've never had any trouble with the eye sounding accidentally except one time when we

piled up the snow too high," Kleiss told FARM SHOW. "The alarm hardly ever sounds accidentally. Once in a great while, a bird will fly between the eye and trigger the door chimes in the house."

Cost of the do it yourself system was right at \$350.

## Grind Ear Corn Right In The Field

Ohio dairy farmer Bob Koerner, of Edgerton, liked the idea of mixing high moisture ground ear corn with regular corn silage for his 250 milking Holsteins. But he wasn't satisfied with the slow harvest pace of a 2 row picker and grinding corn at the silo.

To speed things up, he bought a 6 row Vermeer corn picker (30 in. rows) shortly before harvest last fall and now grinds ear corn in the field as it's picked.

The Vermeer picker, manufactured by Vermeer Mfg., Pella, Iowa, is designed for rear-mounting on 2-wheel drive tractors. Koerner wanted it on a 4-wheel drive Case 2690. Also, because of the limited range of reverse speeds in the 2690, he wanted the tractor to travel forward in the field instead of in reverse. This problem was solved by mounting the picker on a bulldozer frame on the front of the tractor. Koerner also discovered that the tractor was longer

than most tractors on which the picker is mounted and special 40 in. elevator extensions had to be ordered from Vermeer to carry corn from the picker to the rear of the tractor. (One elevator on each side of the tractor carries corn from three rows of the picker.)

But, Koerner still wanted ground ear corn, and Vermeer offers only a husking bed or a sheller attachment for the picker. So, he bought a used Gehl 800 recutter and modified the discharge blower location to permit easier delivery of ground corn to forage wagons trailed behind the tractor. The grinder is driven by a pto shaft running directly to the cutterhead.

The picker was first used to open fields before Koerner started chopping silage with a pull-type forage harvester. Even though moisture content of the corn was probably close to 40%, Koerner says performance was satisfactory and that the corn

was simply mixed with the silage. To grind corn that wet, the screens were completely removed from the grinder.

Koerner says he prefers moisture content of the ground ear corn to be 27 to 32%, all kernels cracked and the cobs well shattered. When he first started field-grinding corn for storage, a 2 in. screen was used in the grinder. Later, when moisture dropped to about 26%, a 1 in. screen was installed.

"The grain mixes better with silage if all kernels are cracked and cobs are broken into small pieces," says Koerner. "This also helps prevent cows from sorting grain from the silage as they eat. Most pieces of cob were the size of a pea or smaller."

"We normally travel 2-3 mph with the 6-row harvester," says Koerner, "compared to 3½ to 4 mph with the old 2-row picker. But, with the wider machine and much less labor required at

the silo, we can now harvest and store more than twice as much corn per day, and nobody has to work as hard as they did before. One man feeding the grinder at the silo really had to keep jumping to keep up with the 2-row picker, and we usually had to have someone else running wagons back and forth. Now, one man hauls and unloads into the blower, so there's really a big difference in work required. We can field-grind about 20 acres per day in corn yielding 130-140 bu. per acre."

The 6-row Vermeer picker cost Koerner about \$20,000 including the modified elevators (compared to roughly \$10,000 for a new 2-row picker), and the used grinder cost another \$3,000.

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(Continued on next page)