Made It Myself

(Continued from preceding page)

Low-Cost Grain Cleaner

North Dakota farmer Keith Monson of Cooperstown, says the grain cleaner he made in his farm shop "only cost a few dollars and it works better than a commercial one."

"The sides are 1 by 6 in. boards, the cross pieces are 1 by 2's, and the adjustable legs are 2 by 4's. The screen is ⅛ in. mesh hardware cloth that you can buy anywhere," he notes.

The cleaner is positioned on a truck box or on the ground, and all the grain passes over it before entering the auger. The efficient thing to do is place it over a truck box so the screenings can be hauled away directly.

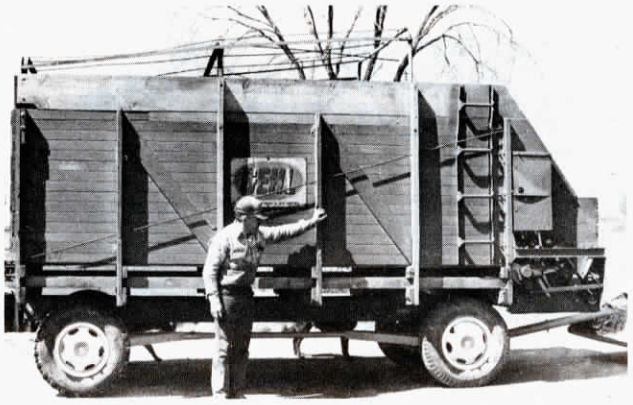
"There are some secrets to making it work efficiently," suggests Monson. "The slope should be gentle enough for the grain to run slow and not build up at the bottom. A wide slide is most efficient but was limited by the 3 ft. width of the hardware cloth. Wind speed and direction either slows down or speeds up movement of grain on the slide."

Monson uses his cleaner mostly for wheat and barley, but it also works for sunflowers, soybeans or corn. In his weedy fields he has been taking out as high as 10% weed seed, and he says it can clean up grain good enough to use as seed.

Taking out the weed seeds is doubly profitable. First, it saves trucking extra weight to the elevator that won't be paid for. Second, it separates out some valuable feed.

"Last year weed seed was worth $40 a ton, and I sold about $1,200 worth. This year it may be up to $47 a ton," says Monson. "It makes a high protein pelleted cattle feed."

Monson says his next cleaner will be made with steps in it about every two feet because an interruption in the flow of grain bounces it into the air and cleans it better.



Homemade Running Gear Built For $150

Pennsylvania dairy farmer Ray Morgan, of Beaver, built his own heavy-duty running gear for his 10-ton forage box for only $150, about one-fifth the cost of a commercial carriage.

The front ends of two 1-ton Ford trucks furnished the two sets of wheels and axles. Morgan used them complete with the 7.50 by 18 tires. He widened the axles 9 in., lengthened the tie rods on the front, and removed the tie rods on the rear axle.

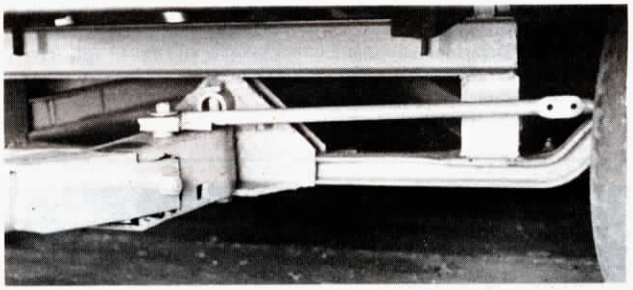
Braces are of 3 in. channel iron and bolsters of 4 in. by 4 in. angle iron. To prevent some of the twisting and turning when driving over rough terrain, Morgan built the coupling pole of a 2 in. pipe that slips inside of a 2½ in. pipe. This forms a swivel joint so the front and rear ends can ride up and down independently of each other.

Another feature is a telescoping drawbar, a 2¼ in. pipe that slides inside a 3 in. pipe. It telescopes 17 in. "It saves a lot of backing when you hitch up to a tractor," Morgan says.

Shop work is Morgan's hobby, and he is now working on adapting a car engine to a forage blower, and perfecting an applicator for silage preservatives.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Morgan, 1060 Brady's Ridge Rd., Beaver, Penn. 15009 (ph 412 775-1091).

Photos courtesy Pennsylvania Farmer



Build Your Own Wood Splitter

Detailed do-it-yourself plans for building your own "Ultimate Wood Splitter" are available from Steve Kimmel, Bluffton, Ohio, designer.

"Biggest advantage of this splitter is that it costs much less than comparable size commercial splitters, partly because you make it yourself and because it uses the power of the tractor engine rather than having its own engine as most splitters do."

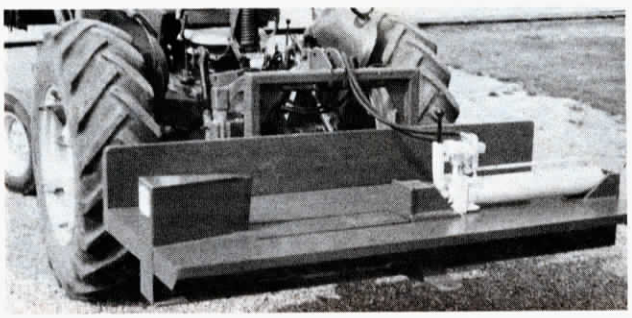
Cost of the plans are $15.95. Kimmel stocks hydraulic cylinders (12.6 tons of thrust) for do-it-yourselfers but notes that any 4 by 24 in. cylinder can be used. The splitter can be mounted onto a fast hitch or 3-pt hookup, and the tractor must have 2-way hydraulics with 2,000-lb. capacity, which all newer tractors have.

The splitter uses a 6½ by 8 in. steel I-beam, which you can purchase locally. Total cost to build the splitter, including $189 for the hydraulic cylinder Kimmel sells, is right at $500.

An advantage of the design is that the long table and wedge allow the split wood to stay on the splitter table after it split, rather than dropping to the ground. Also, the splitter can be raised and lowered, to as low as about 8 in. off the ground and up as high 3 ft., depending on the tractor.

Kimmel recommends that the table be made out of yellow pine or other strong wood. Pieces of wood up to 24 in. long can be split, as well as about any diameter that can be lifted, depending on the tons thrusted of the hydraulic cylinder used.

A good way to use the Ultimate Wood Splitter, says Kimmel, is to hook a trailer on behind the tractor and splitter, go to the woods, cut and split a trailer-full, throwing into the trailer direct from the splitter table. Then, he says, you can return to headquarters with your chain saw and other tools carried on the splitter table.



He says the $15.95 set of plans also can be used to help adapt an existing wood splitter to tractor-mount.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ultimate Wood Splitter plans, 2340 Township Road 27, Bluffton, Ohio 45817 (ph 419 358-2230).