

Combine Shells Ear Corn Out Of Cribs

Indiana farmer Richard Peden saves on drying costs and gets by with just one grain bin by harvesting half of his corn crop as ear corn for storage in cribs.

After the ears dry down he uses a stationary 1970 Gleaner F combine to shell the ear corn right out of his cribs. He removes the header and bolts a hopper onto the feederhouse. A chain elevator carries ear corn from the cribs to the hopper. Another elevator carries cobs away from the back of the combine to a truck.

"Ear corn stores cheap because it doesn't have to be dried. I can put it in the crib at 20% moisture in the fall and by the following August it'll have dried down to 14%. I use the cobs as bedding for my cows," says Peden.

"I harvest about 60 acres as ear corn and have been using the combine to shell it for 5 or 6 years," says Peden. "I also use the combine out in the field to harvest soy-



beans and wheat, and the rest of my corn

Putting part of his corn crop in cribs saves on drying costs and lets him get by with one small grain bin. He already had the corn cribs. When he needs more shelled corn to sell or feed out, he simply sets up the combine by his cribs and goes to work.

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"Big A" Spreader Converted To Giant Manure Injector

By C.F. Marley

Chris Hartke, Teutopolis, Ill., can inject 3,000 gal. of hog manure in 4 min. with this home-built rig.

Hartke injects from 9,000 to 12,000 gallons per acre and can work over a large area since the rig travels at speeds up to 20 mph down the road.

The chassis used to be a Big A 3500 fertilizer spreader. It has 4-WD and 4-wheel steer, with big 67 by 34-in. tires. The engine is a turbo-charged 555 Cummins diesel with 230 hp.

The tank holds 3,000 gal. of manure. Hartke had it custom-built at a metal shop. The 3-shank injection toolbar on back came off a salvaged municipal sludge injection rig. As an alternative, Hartke can also unhook the injection system and use the rig to broadcast manure in a swath up to 40 ft. wide.

Hartke mounted a Moro M-10 pump just behind the cab. A moisture trap mounts just above the pump.

The injection toolbar raises and lowers hydraulically. The gate valve on back of the tank is also hydraulic-operated.

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Mineral Feeder Turns With The Wind

It turns with the wind, says Jim Zapetal, Tabor, S.Dak., about the "weather proof" mineral feeder he built out of a truck wheel and hub and other miscellaneous parts.

It consists of a truck rim fitted with scrap iron braces that lies flat on the ground. The front spindle, hub, and wheel off a junked car are welded solid to the truck rim. A plastic barrel sits on top of the car wheel, held in place by bolted-on metal straps.

A large opening on one side of the barrel gives easy access to the minerals or salt inside. A bent pipe on top of the barrel is fitted with a plywood "sail" that keeps the feeder pointed away from the wind, keeping rain and snow out of the feeder.

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Low-To-The-Ground Bale Hauling Trailer

Here's a heavy-built bale hauling trailer that's built low to the ground for bale hauling and to allow it to be used as a mobile bale feeder in winter.

The main frame is made out of 6 by 6-in. I-beams that run the full length of the trailer, with two cross bars. The frame hinges on one side. Two 4 by 24-in. cylinders dump bales off the side.

The bale hauler has a 12-ton tandem axle running gear, fitted with 20.5 by 8 by 10 10-ply tires which keep it low to the ground.

"It'll haul as many as eighteen 4 by 6-

ft. bales and dump them off the side. In winter, I put 4 bales on the trailer lengthwise, end-to-end and let cattle feed right off the trailer," says Carroll Crum, Littlestown, Penn., noting that the trailer is low enough to the ground so he can load bales onto it for feeding with a 3-pt. hitch bale hauler.

He also designed the trailer so he can add 4 upright standards for hauling logs. "It's built heavy enough to haul a big load," says Crum.

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