



The header is belt driven off the front axle so it turns only when combine moves.

"KIDS LOVE IT"

## Mini Combine Made From Riding Mower

"Kids love it," says Tom Hart, Rochelle, Ill., about the mini combine he made out of a riding mower.

Hart bought a used mower from an implement dealer for \$100. He reversed the steering wheel and turned the seat around and widened the rear axle by 8 in.

To determine how big to make the cab and where to locate the controls, he had Matthew sit in the seat and measured around him. He used 1 1/2-in. angle iron to make the cab frame and corrugated steel on the roof. He used sheet metal off a junked combine to make the grain tank. The cab windows are 1/4-in. plexiglass and the two unloading augers are PVC pipe.

He made a pulley and belt-drive steering system by running a belt from the bottom of the steering column to the mower's front steering axle.

He used sheet metal to build a ground-driven "floating" header with a reel that's belt-driven off the mower's axle, so the reel turns only when the combine's moving. The header mounts on gauge wheels off an old

Cub Cadet riding mower. He used 1 by 4 boards to make wood reel batts and mounted them on a length of 3-in. dia. PVC pipe. Each end of the pipe rides on saddle bearings.

"The operator can use a lever to raise the header over obstacles. It moves up or down 1 ft. and is hinged and spring-loaded so it can bounce up without being damaged if it hits something.

"It has a clutch drive so it only moves when the operator pushes the clutch pedal. Letting up on the pedal engages the tractor's parking brake. The mower's original reverse gear is now the only forward gear so the operator can't drive too fast. Also, the belt that drives the header is set real loose so the reel will stop if anything gets caught in it."

The gas tank mounts under the grain tank. Hart cut a 3-in. dia. hole through the bottom of the grain tank to refuel.

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## Steer Has Map Of Ohio On Forehead

It was a pleasant surprise for Bob Mikesell, Frazeysburg, Ohio, when he and his son-in-law Allen Brinker brought home a load of cattle they'd bought in North Carolina and found a steer with what appeared to be a map of the state of Ohio on its forehead.

"We took an Ohio map with us to the barn to check the outline," says Mikesell. "And there it was, about as perfect as you could expect to find."

Mikesell and Brinker made ear tags naming the steer "Buckeye" and have made it a pet in their feedlot.

"I doubt if the North Carolina farmer who sold the steer had any idea of the special shape of that white patch. It took a Buckeye to notice it," says Mikesell, who is a graduate of Ohio State University.

Plans for the steer are uncertain. Mikesell says he's not sure yet if he will slaughter "Buckeye" along with the other steers, or keep him as a pet.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Mikesell, 18176 CR 3, Frazeysburg, Ohio.



A map of Ohio.



The Friedrichs have a collection of more than 500 feed sacks, some as old as 100 years.

"EACH SACK HAS A STORY TO TELL"

## Feed Sack Collection

You probably won't find a larger collection of feed sacks anywhere than the one owned by Al and Delores Friedrich, Canby, Ore., who have been collecting burlap and cotton feed sacks for over 25 years. They now have more than 500 of them, all photographed and cataloged. Many of the sacks are more than 60 years old, and some are up to 100 years old.

"It's fun collecting them because each sack has a story to tell. Many contain written information such as ingredients and price and are historical documents," says Friedrich. "They're all that remain of the old flour and feed mills, most of which have gone out of business."

In addition to feed sacks, Friedrich also collects seed, flour, sugar, and other sacks.

His collection traces its beginnings back to 1877 when his great-grandfather opened a feed and flour mill near Mulino, Ore. Friedrich, who is now 76, worked at the mill for 45 years. When sacks were returned to be cleaned and repaired, he began saving some of the better looking ones.

"The sacks really came into their own in the early part of this century, when advances in poultry nutrition began occurring," says Friedrich. "Between 1925 and 1975 more than 100 flour and feed mills were operating in Oregon alone. Each mill identified its bags with a distinctive brand. When feeds fortified with minerals and vitamins were introduced, companies wanted their customers to know about it. As demand for better feeds grew, so did competition between the mills. To get business, they used beautiful feed sacks with colorful brand

names, logos, and illustrations printed on them.

"For those of us who loved being around feed mills, the sacks came to symbolize a truly exciting time. As a friend of mine said, that period of several decades was like a 'beautiful romance.'"

But in the 1950's and '60's, bulk feeds came into the picture, and the use of sacked feed declined. Not too long after that, those mills that still used sacks switched to smaller ones made of paper or plastic. The era of cotton and burlap feed sacks was over. Today many feed sacks have disappeared forever along with the mills that used them.

Friedrich is now retired from the feed business but is doing what he can to preserve the history of feed sacks. He and Delores exhibit their collection at the Oregon State Fair every year and have produced a 70-page booklet filled with photos and the histories of each sack they've collected. They've also produced a 90-minute slide show. Unfortunately, there's no national network of collectors with whom to swap information and bags.

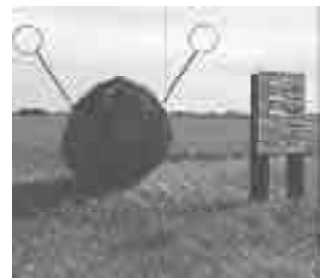
"I know there are still some one-of-a-kind sacks out there that should be in our collection. We want the humble feed sack to have the place in agricultural history that it deserves," says Friedrich, adding that he'd like to hear from other people who collect old feed sacks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alvin & Delores Friedrich, 710 N. Juniper St., Box 103, Canby, Ore. 97013 (ph 503 266-9357).

## Barbed Wire Head

After taking down a bunch of barbed wire fences on his farm near Bowdle, S. Dak., Kenneth Schun got the idea of putting the old wire to use.

Schun made a big ball out of the used wire and put it next to the road leading to his farm. Then he put a pair of "ears" on the ball and eyes and a mouth. The eye-catching ball of wire makes a good landmark when directing people to his farm. He also erected a sign next to the wire head listing his and his neighbors' farms and the distance to each.



Barbed wire head makes great landmark.