“We think this combine’s so valuable it’s the only machine on our farm that we keep inside a heated building,” says Dan Walder, Wittenberg, Wis., about the New Idea Uni-System harvester he uses to harvest shelled corn and stalks at the same time.

It consists of a New Idea 844 4-row corn head fitted with flail choppers, a cross auger, and blower. The flails shred the stalks and cut them off at the same time. The header-mounted blower, which came off a New Holland silage chopper, sends chopped stalks back to a trailing wagon while a rear-mounted blower sends cobs, husks, and chaff into the wagon.

“Eliminates the need to make a separate pass with a flail chopper to chop stalks and makes a much better feed because it collects all the cobs, husks, and leaves,” says Walder, who built the machine with help from his son Mark.

There are flail knives behind each set of gathering chains on the header. Each flail is positioned inside a 3 1/2-ft. long steel enclosure that holds the stalk straight up instead of allowing it to bend over onto the ground out of reach of the flails. Flails are driven by a chain-driven driveshaft. Walder used a series of short pieces of driveshaft rather than one long shaft because of the amount of stress on the shaft.

“We welded three knives off an Interna-ional flail chopper into the blower in order to make a much better feed because it collects all the cobs, husks, and leaves,” says Walder, who built the machine with help from his son Mark.

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