



Hood over propane motor directs heat into drier fan.

Engine-Driven Fan Helps Dry Grain

Heat from a propane-fired motor aids low-temperature grain drying with this set up devised by Fred Markert, Tallula, Ill.

A Kohler 20 propane engine drives a 2-ft. dia. drying fan that was originally electric-driven. The fan blows atmospheric air into the bin along with captured engine heat. A special-built hood on the engine helps direct

heated air into the fan. Markert says the low-temperature set up works best with corn at 22 percent moisture or less. The engine-driven fan is portable so he can move it from bin to bin.

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Kansas Farmer Mixes Wheat, Fertilizer Together In Grain Drill

Mixing wheat seed with fertilizer right in the drill has boosted yields for Scott City, Kan., farmer Bruce Wilkens, according to a recent report in Kansas Farmer.

Wilkens wanted to get dry phosphorus right into the root zone rather than applying it on the surface. He tried putting liquid phosphorus on with his drill but it was expensive and required extra application equipment. Putting it down with the seed seemed like the simplest solution. He first tried it three years ago, mixing a limited amount of 11-52-0 in with seed wheat. Yields on that small patch jumped 12 percent (5 bu./acre) over neighboring fields. The next year he expanded the idea to 300 acres and then increased that to 600 acres

last season.

Drawbacks are that Wilkens has to haul seed to town to have the fertilizer blended together with fertilizer. Also, he has to refill drills more often. But he says he's noticed no problem with fertilizer settling out or corroding equipment.

The most important thing is to get the drill calibrated right for the blend so you have the right seeding and fertilizing rate. Wilkens shoots for about 30 lbs. of 11-52-0 per acre, which gives him about 15 lbs. of phosphorus per acre and a bit of nitrogen to give the crop an early kick. The bulk of his nitrogen goes on as anhydrous. It's also important to use a high grade of fertilizer with uniform particle size and no dust or fines.

Dairy Farmer Offers "Down Cow" Service

After seeing a story in FARM SHOW about the "Aqua Cow" water rescue trailer that floats down cows up onto their feet (Vol. 15, No. 2), Sandy Ingraham, St. Johnsbury, Vt., decided to start a down cow rescue service for dairy farmers using the idea.

"Farmers like it because it's an injury-proof way to raise downed cows," says Ingraham, who began offering his "Acme Cow Float and Transport" service about a year ago. He charges \$150 for each down cow rescue.

The "Aqua Cow" system was invented by John Lastein, a dairy farmer in Denmark. The system lets you float a downed cow up onto its legs again without using any kind of clamp, belts or chains. You roll the cow onto a rubber mat and use a tractor to drag it into the trailer which opens at both ends. Then you close the watertight doors and fill the container with water that's been heated to the cow's body temperature (100°). Once the cow is recovered enough to walk out by herself, water is drained away through a valve at the bottom.

"The major problem with the Aqua Cow

system as manufactured was that it required heating and transporting about 700 gal. of water," says Ingraham. "Lastein sells a water heating tank with his system, but the entire unit, including trailer and water heating tank, sells for about \$14,000. I built my own system for less than \$2,000 using Aqua Cow's watertight box with my own home-built water heating system."

Ingraham built his 750-gal. water heating tank with the help of neighbors Steve Kimball and Neil Dunbar. Water inside an insulated steel tank is heated by burners from a two 180,000 btu oil-fired furnace boilers. It takes about 1 1/2 hours to raise the water temperature from 35 degrees to 100 degrees.

Ingraham transports the Aqua Cow box and his water heater on a 1-ton truck flatbed. A silo unloader winch, mounted on top of the water heating tank, is used to unload the Aqua Cow box from the trailer. If needed, a 2-wheel trolley invented by Lastein can be used to transport down cows out of barns. "The cow normally stays in the Aqua Cow box for 8 or 12 hours," says Ingraham.



Hoover uses silo blower to blow silage into pile next to silos.

Easy Way To Pile Up Silage

When all the silos on his farm were filled, David Hoover, Patton, Penn., came up with an easy way to blow the remaining silage into a big pile that he could then cover with plastic.

Hoover simply took an old blower spout off a forage harvester and mounted it on top of a silo filler. He turned the spout upside down and curved it down a bit.

He parks the silo blower next to the pile and then dumps into it from a forage wagon, the same way he would if he were filling silo.

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Harvester blower spout mounts upside down on silo blower.

He Hunts Deer In Comfort

If you love to hunt deer but don't want to spend a lot of money on a fancy deer stand, you'll like this idea from Stacey Watson, Curryville, Mo., who hunts in comfort using a cab from an old Allis Chalmers A combine.

"I call it a deer hunter's condo. You can put it up in a tree or set it atop a bluff like I do. It's got a comfortable seat, great visibility, and provides watertight protection from the elements," says Watson.

He mounted the cab on two 4 by 4 treated runners so he can pull it with a pickup or ATV and covered the back of the cab with a sheet of plywood. He hinged the front glass to open and the other three sides also open up for a 360° shooting range.



Watson converted combine cab into comfy sit-down deer stand.

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"Aqua Cow" unit has removable ends. Once inside, warm water floats cow to standing position.

"Once the cow is up, if the owner or veterinarian wants to have a better look, I can temporarily pump the water out of the box and back into the heating tank. After the cow has been examined I pump the water back into the box."

Ingraham is building two smaller "do-it-yourself" water rescue trailers that will carry an Aqua Cow box and a 650-gal. water tank.

"The plan is to drop off the trailer or the farmer can pick it up at my farm. It'll take about 2 1/2 hours to float a cow from start to finish," notes Ingraham.

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