



## "Dry Down" Grain Wagons

By C.F. Marley

Mark Musser and his father Earl, who farm near Beecher City, Ill., rigged up two gravity flow wagons with drying fans so he can use them for portable storage, or as portable drying bins when other facilities aren't available at harvest.

The small fans can be removed from the 250 bu. EZ Flow and the 300 bu. Killbros wagons for other use. But, when needed, they can quickly be attached by simply fitting them over holes cut in the side of each wagon. The holes are covered by perforated metal so air can flow through but grain can't leak out.

"If I combine soybeans on Saturday afternoon and the

moisture content is up but the elevator is closed, I use the fans over the weekend. I also use them for temporary storage of corn with moisture contents as high as 25%. The fans keep it in condition until I have room in the bin. I've even used it to dry 20% moisture corn all the way down," says Musser.

The fans connect to 5-in. dia. "snorkels" that fit snugly against the holes in the wagon sides. The fans draw air down from the top of the wagon and through the grain.

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## Heavy-Duty Big Bale Loader

"My brother Clyde and I built it over 20 years ago and it's been the most-used piece of equipment on our farm," says Clarence Stonebrink, Enterprise, Ore., about his big bale loader that handles two bales at once and is extremely maneuverable in close quarters.

The Stonebrinks built the loader by stripping down the chassis of a 2-ton Chevy truck. They shortened up the frame and reversed the drive by turning the differential over to run backwards. They added a 3-speed transmission to the standard truck 4-speed to create a 3-range transmission. The operator sits directly over the engine and there's a second seat for a passenger so you don't have to stop work when someone stops by to visit, according to Stonebrink, or so you can show a youngster how to operate it.

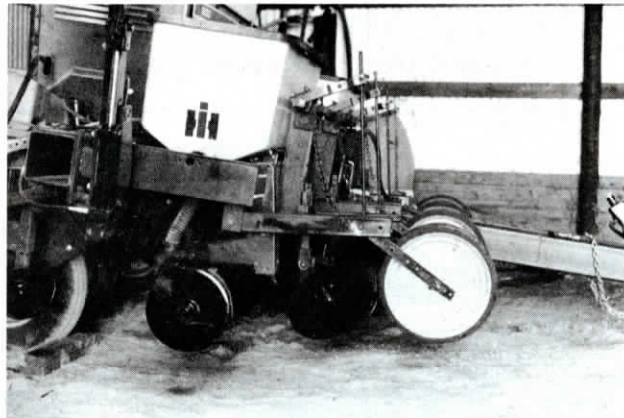
The loader is fitted with large combine wheels for a better ride and increased traction. The

Stonebrinks had to build special hubs to accommodate the large wheels and they widened the wheelbase for added stability.

The loader lifts a total of 14 ft. using a 7-ft. hydraulic cylinder connected to a cable and set of pulleys. Bale forks 8-ft. long handle two bales at a time. Clarence says it'll stack bales in piles 5 high on end. A hydraulic cylinder tips the bale-handling mast forward.

Steering on the rear wheels is hydrostatic. The rig travels down the road at 25 to 30 mph. "You can't go faster because rear-wheel steer makes it unstable at higher speeds," says Clarence.

His sons Don and Glen built a similar loader for their own use. He's currently working on a bale loader and transport made from a stripped down ¾-ton Chevrolet pickup that'll handle 6 big bales at once. He's also the inventor of a self-propelled round baler made by combining a swather drive unit with a round



## Salvaged "Add-Ons" Convert Planter Into Ridge Planter

"I had 650 acres of corn to plant. Stalks from the previous year were still in the field and time was running short," says Dick Harken, Decorah, Iowa, who went to work in his farm shop to modify his International 800 4-row planter into a one-pass till and ridge-plant machine.

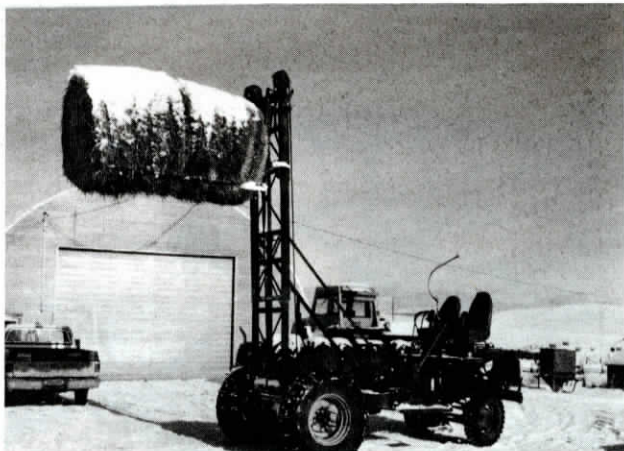
In one operation, he prepares a 6-in. wide seedbed in the stalks, applies fertilizer and herbicides, and plants. To his planter he added up-front row cleaners that skim the stalks off last year's ridge, leaving a clean seedbed for fertilizer and seed placement. "With row cleaners attached to the front of the planter, I clear trash before the fertilizer units so I know fertilizer is placed correctly. Plus, the row unit isn't bouncing over trash so it rides level for even seed placement," explains Harken. He figures he has right at \$150 invested per row in the add-on units.

The add-on row cleaners were salvaged from a 8-row IH 400 planter and other machinery. The framework for each row is from the old planter and attaches to the 4-row planter's 2 by 6-in. front toolbar. On the front of the row units is an 18-in. gauge wheel followed by 14-in. row cleaning discs (salvaged from a Buffalo planter) which clear off the old row of stalks.

Harken connected hydraulic rams to the add-on cleaners and teed them into the planter's hydraulics so both the base planter and the add-ons operate with the same lever.

He feels the modification could be adapted to most any pull-type planter. Turning radius isn't seriously affected. He'd like to talk to interested manufacturers.

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baler. The innovative baler was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 9, No. 2 issue.

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