

Combine Head Equipped With Cornstalk Chopper

Minnesota farmers Dan Sturm and Dennis Miest, of St. James, say the stalk chopper attachment they bolted to a combine corn head passed extensive field tests last fall "with flying colors."

"It really works slick. When you're done harvesting a corn field, you've also chopped the stalks in a once-over operation. We'd like to team up with a manufacturer to get it into commercial production," Sturm told FARM SHOW.

Using knives salvaged from an old stalk chopper, he and Miest rigged the stalk-chopping attachment for a 4-row, 30 in. head that was used on two different International combines — a 915 and a 1440. A 4-blade knife covers each corn row, taking about a 2 1/2-in. wide cut. The knives are mounted on a 4 1/2-in. dia. tube shaft that's chain driven off the combine head's jackshaft. The stalk chopper turns at about 950 rpm's, which is about double the speed of the jackshaft that drives it.

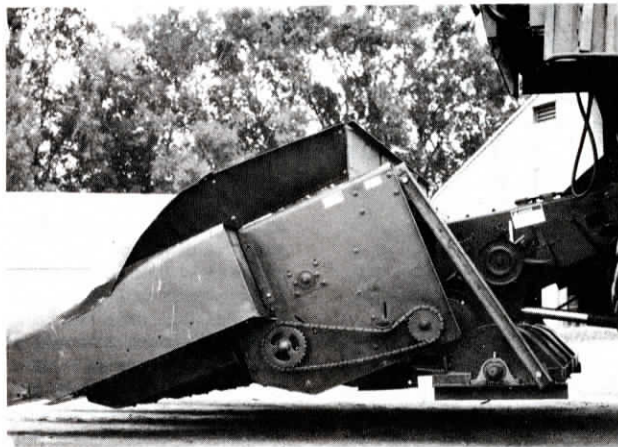
In testing the chopper last fall on several hundred acres of corn that averaged 158 bu. per acre, the inventors report that the combine engines had "no trouble whatsoever" powering the add-on attachment. "In no

way, as far as we could determine, did it adversely affect operating efficiency of the combine itself," notes Miest. "We ran the chopper through a few lodged spots to see how effectively it would chop down corn. I'd estimate it snagged and chopped at least 90% of the stalks in these problem spots."

The prototype chopping attachment adds about 300 lbs. extra weight to the head and has to be unbolted and removed before the head itself can be removed. "One man working alone can put it on and take it off," says Miest. "We think the basic design can be refined, allowing the head and chopper to remain intact when being put on, or taken off, the combine."

The inventors welcome inquiries from farmers, and from firms interested in manufacturing and marketing the stalk-chopping attachment for affixing to new or used combine row crop heads. "Our prototype fits most Deere and International combines and, with refinements, could be modified to fit other makes," says Sturm.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Sturm, Rt. 1, St. James, Minn. 56081 (ph 507 375-4906, or 5574).



Do-It-Yourself Wheel Balancer

"It's accurate, maintenance free and easy to read," says Jerry Nielson of the do-it-yourself wheel balancer he invented.

Called the "Plumbalancer", it uses a cone-shaped adaptor which slips into the hole in the center of car or truck wheel rims. The "hanging" rope affixes to a hook inside the cone, and to a ceiling hook. Once suspended, you then place lead weights around the outer edge of the rim as needed to exactly center the rope in the center of the cone's top opening. "Just lay the lead weights loose on the tire so you can move them around to balance the tire. Once it's balanced, you then pound the weights into permanent position on the rim, being careful not to change their position in the circle," Nielson points out.

He'd like to hear from manufacturers interested in producing his Plumbalancer commercially.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Plumbalancer, Jerry L. Nielson, Box 12, Viborg, So. Dak. 57070 (ph 605 326-5731, or 5514).



Rock Picker Attaches To Loader Bucket

You can haul rocks as you pick 'em with this handy "Pick-A-Rock" attachment invented by Jim Hoberg, Sacred Heart, Minn.

Designed to fit all tractor, skid steer or pay loader buckets, it'll handle rocks as big as the loader it's attached to can handle, says Hoberg. Rocks are picked up and cradled on the teeth. To move them into the bucket, you simply raise it up and tilt it back. Grates behind the teeth allow dirt and debris to fall to the ground.

The teeth, made of solid high stress steel, are 30 1/2-in. long and 1 1/4-in.

in dia. Metal strips welded on the top side of each tooth point prevent rocks from rolling off.

To hook up, just drive into the attachment and drop 3 pins into holes drilled into the bottom lip of the bucket.

Hoberg is looking for a manufacturer interested in putting his Pick-A-Rock invention into commercial production.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Hoberg, 404 2nd Ave., Sacred Heart, Minn. 56285 (ph 612 756-2576).



Feedlot Grain Feeder

"It works great to feed grain to yearlings," says Oscar Heller, Southey, Sask., about his tractor-mounted feedlot grain feeder.

Heller built the feeder by mounting a grain hopper from an old junked Deere combine on a tube steel frame that fits the tractor 3-pt. on his Minneapolis-Moline tractor. The hopper holds about 50 bu. of feed. He put an orbit motor on the feedout auger at the bottom of the hopper and then ex-

tended the auger out the other side about 2 ft. To feed into his tire feeders, which lie flat on concrete pads, he simply opens the hydraulic valve briefly and a couple bushels feed out in seconds. He can feed into 10 tire bunk feeders in a couple minutes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oscar Heller, Rt. 1, Box 21, Southey, Sask. S0G 4P0 Canada (ph 306 746-4304).