



Kemper "row independent" chopper and head mount on front of Deere 7800 MFWD tractor equipped with a LaForge front-mount 3-pt. hitch.

Chopper Head Mounts On Front Of Deere 7800

When the head on a 13-year-old Deere 5820 self-propelled forage chopper began to show signs of age, Veatch & Sons Inc., near Roberts, Ill., decided they couldn't justify the cost of a new self-propelled chopper. And a pull-type machine was out of the question for the large amount of silage the custom cattle and grain company had to chop.

So the company came up with a hybrid rig that's the only one of its kind in use in North America.

It has the price advantage of a pull-type rig with the convenience of a self-propelled machine," says Brad Veatch.

Their system uses a Kemper "row independent" 2200 chopper and head distributed by Taylor Implement Company Inc., Box 725, West Hwy. 24, Hoxi, Kan. 67740 (ph 913 675-3272). The German-built 7 1/2-ft. wide head cuts a variety of crops in any row width without use of conventional gathering chains. Instead, it features two large cutting rotors that spin at up to 700 rpm's to cut the crop and two large gathering drums that feed the crop into the machine. Heavy-duty gearboxes drive the head to make it virtually maintenance-free.

The chopper and head mount on front of their Deere 7800 MFWD tractor with a LaForge front-mount 3-pt hitch (4480 Treat Blvd., Suite No. 230, Concord, Cal. 94521; ph 800 422-5636 or 510 827-2010; fax 689-7198).

The unit required virtually no modifications to operate in this manner and it's direct driven by a front-mounted Deere add-on pto they installed on front of the tractor.

This was the first year we used it and we

were amazed with the chopper's versatility, convenience and user-friendly design," says Veatch. "For example, all you have to do to adjust the machine between crops is to select the right speed for the feed rollers from the chopper's 4-speed transmission and high or low range for the drums from the two pto shafts that come off the transmission. All it amounts to is simply stopping the rig, getting off the tractor, changing gears, and getting back to work."

The head works great in thick-stemmed crops such as corn, sorghum and rye, Veatch says. "But it had difficulty cutting thin stemmed Timothy and brome hay," he notes.

To distribute weight between the front and rear of the tractor, the Veatches mounted a 400-gal. anhydrous tank on the rear 3-pt. of the Deere 7800. To apply 6 lbs. per ton anhydrous, they had to custom-build a cradle to hold the tank.

The Veatches pull Richardton 960T dump wagons behind the tractor. The Kemper chopper has an extremely long spout with 13 1/2 ft. of ground clearance, making it ideal for blowing silage over the tractor cab or to side-fill semis or dump wagons, he notes.

"We paid slightly more for this chopper than a comparable pull-type, but we think the extra cost will be more than offset by lower maintenance costs and the increased versatility of the tractor-mounted design," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Veatch & Sons Inc., 1321N 1600E Rd., Roberts, Ill. 60962.

"Waterproof" Auger Hopper Cover

"Our new waterproof auger hopper cover rises to a peak at the center, preventing water from ever ponding up," says Mick McCoy, Rainbow Industries, So. Vienna, Ohio.

The cover is made from 18-oz. vinyl-coated nylon. It's held up at the center by an adjustable, telescopic aluminum rod that stands on the bottom of the hopper. The top of the pole fits through a grommet in the cover. You telescope the pole to raise the cover to the desired height and then use a thumb screw to lock it in place. A cotter pin inserts through the top of the pole to ensure that the cover and pole always stay together. A shock cord sewn into the hem at the bottom of the cover is used to snap the cover over the edge of the hopper.

Comes in five different sizes to fit most



Cover is made from 18-oz. vinyl-coated nylon and rises to a peak at the center, preventing water from ever ponding up. popular brands of auger hoppers. Sells for \$50 to \$100 depending on size.

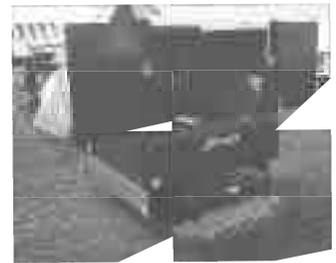
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rainbow Industries, Inc., 5975 E. National Rd., Box 506, So. Vienna, Ohio 45369 (ph 800 388-8277 or 937 323-6493).

Electric-Powered Round Bale Processor

You don't need a tractor to operate this new round bale processor that's powered by a 10 hp electric motor. It can handle either wet or dry bales without pulverizing the hay, says Steiner Ag Products, Orrville, Ohio.

The "Bale Beaver" is a stationary unit with a steel rotor in front and a heavy duty pintle chain and crossbars on top of a poly floor. The rotor is equipped with strips of sharp teeth spaced about 10 in. apart and horizontal steel knives staggered between the strips. You load the bale from the side through swingaway doors. The chain pushes the bale against the rotor which chops it into 6 to 8-in. lengths. A 2-speed lever is used to control the bale's rotation speed.

"It doesn't beat your hay or turn the leaves and stems into powder like other bale processors do," says Chad Ramseyer. "It makes feed that's 100% palatable. The side-mounted doors make it easy to load the bale and can be mounted on either side of the unit. An optional 20-in. belt conveyor is available to deliver feed into a mixer."



Stationary rig is powered by a 10 hp electric motor and can handle either wet or dry bales without pulverizing the hay.

Model 560 handles 5-ft. bales and sells for \$10,500. Model 450 handles 4-ft. bales and is powered by a 7 1/2-hp electric motor. It sells for \$9,300.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steiner Ag Products, 12657 Church Rd., Box 148, Orrville, Ohio 44667 (ph 330 683-0075).

Sheepskin Seat Covers For Farm Equipment

Motorcyclists and car drivers have used sheepskin seat covers for years to keep their back sides warm in winter and cool in summer. Farmers can now enjoy the same benefits on tractors, combines, skid steers, garden tractors, and other equipment, says Roger Mackedanz, Dassel, Minn., who's started a booming business selling custom sheepskin seat covers.

Sheepskins are available in a wide variety of colors and in different grades of wool (from natural to long hair shag). "Sitting on sheepskin in cold weather is like sitting in a warm easy chair," says Mackedanz. "It also keeps you cool in hot weather because it can't be completely compressed. There's always air under you so your skin can breathe and you don't sweat. I have a hobby farm with about 2 1/2 acres of lawn and have used sheepskins for years on my riding mower which has a plastic covered seat. I've also used it on my skid steer loader.

"The sheepskin has a natural leather backing that protects the original seat from



Sheepskin seat covers can be used on a wide variety of farm equipment, including garden tractors.

damage. Periodically you can remove the sheepskin and fluff it out like you do with a bed pillow. It's machine washable although it's best to keep it out of the rain."

Sheepskin covers sell for \$35 to \$95 depending on size and wool grade.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Mackedanz, County-Line Design, 16108 720th Ave., Dassel, Minn. 55325 (ph 320 587-7872).

Shrimp "Ranching" Heads North

This summer the Midwest got its first look at a new "livestock" enterprise that previously existed only in the southernmost states.

Penbur Farms of Buda, Texas, last summer announced plans to put up a big shrimp ranch near Hayden, Ind., and has since contracted to build similar facilities in Pennsylvania and Quebec.

Each of the \$7 million ranches will produce 800,000 lbs. of shrimp a year when they're up and running at full steam. Shrimp will be raised inside big tanks in 100,000 sq. ft. buildings so outside climate is not a concern for production, which can be a rather tricky business.

Viruses have proven deadly in densely-packed, pond-farming operations in the south where disease spreads quickly.

Using closed tanks that recirculate artificial seawater should eliminate the problem and avoid the pollution associated with shrimp farming in open ponds, according to the company.

For anyone who's got the capital to invest, shrimp farming might offer big returns.

That's because of a currently tight supply.

Last spring, the U.S. embargoed shrimp exports from 30 countries, including China, Thailand, and India, whose producers don't use devices to keep sea turtles from drowning in their nets. Supplies were further tightened by a late season along the Gulf of Mexico, which normally produces about 200 million lbs. a year, and a virus that last year decimated Texas' shrimp harvest to 1.4 million lbs., down from 3.7 million normally.

The combination has Penbur Farms projecting a selling price of up to \$13 per lb., meaning payback on the new \$7 million facility will come in as little as 14 months.

Even if you haven't got \$7 million lying around, don't give up on shrimp.

Penbur Farms CEO and President Jim Penfield says the company is looking into setting up smaller sized operations that might fit better into an average-sized farm.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shawn Shoemaker or Sonny Hollub, Penbur Farms Inc., 1235 South Loop 4, Buda, Texas 78610 (ph 512 312-1245).