When Andrew Ford’s 1996 corn crop was 15 to 20-bu. per acre bigger than expected, his two existing cribs couldn’t handle it all. So the Maysville, Ky., farmer came up with a quick, economical solution that gave him the extra storage he needed.

Ford bought a used 45-ft. long semi trailer for $1,200 and turned it into a self-unloading crib that holds 1,400 bu. of ear corn.

“We elevated the front five feet by setting a 9-in. dia. post on each side of the trailer,” he says. “We notched the top of each post and mounted a piece of railroad track between the posts. Then we welded the trailer jacks to the track. We stacked railroad ties underneath the track to keep the trailer from sinking.”

Ford cut 2 by 4-ft. holes spaced 10 ft. apart in the roof of the trailer for filling with his elevator.

He covered the back of the trailer with 2 by 6 slats spaced 1 1/2 in. apart. A 2-ft by 18-in. sliding door mounts in an angle iron frame at the bottom. He also trussed the sides of the trailer with three 1/2-in. dia. rebar rods spaced equidistantly through the trailer. He covers the trailer with a 45 by 41056 (ph 606 759-7804).

Converted 45-ft. long semi trailer holds 1,400 bu. of ear corn.

Cultivator kit keeps cutaway discs at a constant 2-in. depth.

Floating Depth Band “Cut-away Kit”

“Our new floating depth band ‘cut-away kits’ for row crop cultivators keep the discs cutting at 2 in. deep in all conditions. Once you set them there’s no need to adjust the depth,” says Steve Keller, Keller Welding & Mfg., Tintah, Minn.

The kits mount on Allway, WIC, and other row crop cultivators and are designed to replace the cultivator’s original discs. The depth band and disc mount on a steel bracket that bolts onto the cultivator gang via a pair of 1-in. greasable brass bushings. The design eliminates any side-to-side “slop”. The brackets are spring-loaded so they can pivot up and over rocks with no problem. Available with either 12 or 14-in. discs. Both sizes sell for $118 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keller Welding & Mfg., Tintah, Minn. 56583 (ph 218 369-2136).

First-of-its-kind protective cage wraps around entire tractor.

Protective Cage Covers Entire Tractor

“It’s the only protective cage of its kind that covers the entire tractor,” says Gil’s Welding, Bakersfield, Calif., about its “form fitting” tractor cage designed for work in orchards or logging operations.

The new narrow cage is designed to slip through heavy cover without snagging, minimizing damage to fruit trees and to the tractor.

The part of the cover that’s over the hood pivots up for easy access to the engine. And the front piece over the radiator pivots outward. Doors on the cage around the operator open and shut like doors on a cab.

Made of heavy 9-ga. metal mesh with 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing framework. The cage extends out only about 6 in. on each side of the tractor.

Can be designed to fit most any tractor. Sells for $3,000 installed, or can be shipped as a kit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gil’s Welding, 2437 Pine Street, Bakersfield, Calif. 93301 (ph 805 324-2623).

Low-Cost Balers Catching On Fast

“Long Manufacturing’s baler costs as much as 25 percent less than comparably sized major brand balers, Cheatham notes. Manufactured in Poland with final assembly in the U.S., the baler features manual start automatic twin twine ties, hydraulically adjustable 55-in. wide pickups with gauge wheels, selector valves for 1 or 2-spool hydraulics, four-time bars, 82.5-in.

Model 2046, which makes 4 by 4-ft. bales weighing up to 1,100 lbs., sells for $13,000. Model 2047, which makes 4 by 5-ft. bales up to 1,300 lbs., sells for $14,500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Long Manufacturing NC Inc., P.O. Box 1139, Tarboro, N.C. 27886 (ph 919 823-4151).