



Low-Cost Temporary Grain Bin

The combination of a bumper corn crop and low corn prices prompted Jim Noram, Currie, Minn., to build his own temporary grain bin that has no permanent roof or floor and cost thousands of dollars less than a permanent conventional bin.

"I didn't want to pay our local grain elevator to store my corn. I spent only about \$600 to build it," says Noram.

The bin measures 36 ft. in diameter and 12 ft. high and holds 10,000 to 13,000 bu. The roof is simply a layer of plastic stretched tight over a peaked steel frame, while the floor consists of a layer of plastic on top of a gravel and clay base. The sides consist of four 3-ft. high rings of corrugated steel bolted together.

Noram laid down a 6-in. deep layer of gravel on top of a 2-ft. layer of clay, then staked a layer of heavy-duty plastic down over it. After bolting the four rings together, he used 1 by 2-in. steel tubing to build a frame for the roof and bolted it to the top ring. To provide aeration, he places a length of 12-in. dia. tile on top of the plastic in a circle that's about 6 in. from the bin sides. A section of tile runs to the center of the bin where it makes a 90 degree bend and goes vertically up to the top of the bin. An 18-in. dia. electric fan blows air down through the tile.

Noram dries corn down to 15 percent moisture in a nearby bin, then transfers it by auger onto a "splash cone" at the top of the temporary bin. Once the bin is full he puts a big sheet of plastic over the top and uses a nylon rope to pull it down tight onto the frame. The rope is woven through eyelets along the edge of the plastic. After pulling the plastic tight against the roof frame, Noram ties the bottom end of the rope to a series of I-bolts spaced at intervals around the the bin wall. Noram places several short lengths of 6-in. dia. tile on top of the corn



Floor consists of a layer of plastic on top of a gravel and clay base. A length of 12-in. dia. tile is placed on top of plastic in a circle about 6 in. from bin sides and also goes vertically to top center of bin. A fan blows air through tile to provide aeration. Photo was taken after bin was emptied.

to keep the plastic from sagging down against it and causing condensation.

"It lets me safely store corn for up to six months in the winter. It paid for itself the first year," says Noram. "I bought the rings at a sale for just \$400. I paid \$200 for two sections of plastic which I had a company sew together. I check the condition of the corn on a regular basis. I use duct tape to patch up holes in the plastic. One year I had about \$100 worth of spoilage caused by a pin hole. The aeration system works good - the fan has enough air pressure so when it's on the plastic billows up. I use an auger at the bottom of the bin to unload and insert a grain vac through a door to suck out leftover corn.

"It works better than commercial plastic temporary bins because they're guaranteed for only two years and have to be collapsed for storage when they're not being used. My bin doesn't have to be taken down so it has better resale value. And it has the potential to be expanded into a much bigger bin. Someday I plan to finish it off and increase the storage capacity to 20,000 bu."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Noram, 1932 270th Ave., Currie, Minn. 56123 (ph 507 859-2770).

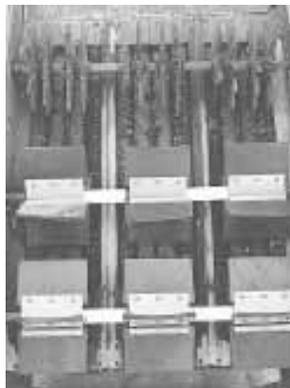
Rubber Paddles Replace Fingers In Husking Bed

If you've ever replaced the rubber fingers on the husking bed of a New Idea corn picker, you'll like these replacement rubber paddles.

"My rubber paddles sell for \$35 apiece, compared to \$114 for a complete set of four rubber fingers," says Russel Paulsen, DeWitt, Iowa, who came up with the idea for his own machine. They worked so well he started selling them.

The paddle brackets bolt to the shafts. If the rubber should ever wear out, you can replace them for about \$4.00 each without removing the shafts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russell A. Paulsen, 2660 252 Ave., DeWitt, Iowa 52742 (ph 319 847-5183).



**FARM
SHOW**

**"Made
It
Myself"**

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmer's workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 1-800-834-9665.

Mark Newhall, Editor



Wick Wiper Travels Sideways Down Road

By C.F. Marley

When Milton Ruppert, Hillsboro, Ill., set out to build a large wick-type "over the row" Roundup applicator, he wanted to find a way to avoid having to fold up the wide boom. Instead he decided to design it so it would travel sideways down the road.

The 3-wheeled rig rides on two spoked wheels on back and a single drive wheel up front. The drive wheel is chain-driven by an 8-hp. gas engine. An International 101 power steering pump provides plenty of hydraulics for steering and also to control the height of the boom.

To travel endwise down the road, he simply turns the front drive wheel 90°. He also rotates the right rear wheel 90° and locks it there. He allows the left rear wheel to caster freely so the rig will corner.

Ruppert points out that because he doesn't have to fold up the boom he can use two long sections of wick wiper, making it easier to fill and maintain.

For more information, contact: FARM



SHOW Followup, Milton Ruppert, 14329 Ill. Route 185, Hillsboro, Ill. 62049 (ph 217 534-2502).