



Fordyce adds 20 to 50 lbs. of ground corn per ton of haylage, using a bulk bin mounted on wheels that moves with bagger.

He Adds Ground Corn To Bagged Silage

Matt Fordyce of Alta, Iowa, wanted to add ground corn to haylage that he packs into plastic silage bags.

He did it by mounting an old bulk feed bin on a 3-wheeled running gear and hitching it to his Roto Press bagger. An unload auger on the bin drops ground corn into the bagger's conveyor as haylage is unloaded out of a wagon.

"I've only used it to fill two 200-ft. bags so far so I'm still trying to decide if it'll pay off," says Fordyce. "I got the idea after reading research that showed ground corn helps fermentation as much as adding on commercial inoculants. I was having trouble with mold. Apparently the ground corn provides a food source for bacteria so they multiply faster, speeding up fermentation. Inoculants work okay on corn silage because it has a higher sugar content."

The bulk bin holds up to 1,000 lbs. of ground corn. Fordyce adds 20 to 50 lbs. of ground corn per ton of haylage.

"The rear wheels on the running gear are only 40 in. apart, with a single front wheel so that the bin fits between the wagon and bagger."

Another idea Fordyce has was to use a pair of telephone poles, mounted on a loader bucket, to help seal bags of high moisture corn each day after he's done unloading from them.

He spaced the poles about 2 ft. apart and



A pair of telephone poles are used to seal open ends of bags. The poles are held together by brackets designed to be picked up by a front-end loader

bolted on a pair of homemade steel brackets to connect them. Each bracket has a horizontal arm on it. To lift the poles off the bag he simply slips the lip of the bucket under the horizontal arms.

"Every morning I use the loader to lift the poles off the bag and set them off to one side. Then I load the corn. When I'm done I lay the plastic back down and place the poles on top of it. They keep the plastic from flapping around in the wind and also keep air out of the bag, which helps reduce spoilage. It makes quite a difference, especially during the summer. I don't use a lot of high moisture corn each day so it's critical to keep the bag sealed."

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Bale Elevator Converted To Belt Conveyor

"It saved me money and works as good as any commercial belted conveyor auger," says Rodney Graham, who had Haines Eqpt. Of Avoca, N.Y., convert an old chain and paddle-type bale elevator into a 20-ft. long belt conveyor.

"I use it to deliver edible beans and soybeans into grain cleaners or trucks. It works great," says Graham.

He bought the old bale elevator from a neighbor for \$500 and got a 20-ft. long, 2-ft. wide heavy-duty belt conveyor from a local potato equipment manufacturer. He removed the chain and paddles from the elevator. Then he made some brackets for a pair of rollers and bolted them to each end of the elevator. The belt is driven by a 1 hp electric motor.

"I paid \$1,500 for the belt, which was my main cost. Commercial belt conveyor augers sell for at least \$2,500 to \$3,000," he notes.

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Belt is driven by a 1 hp. electric motor.



A single hopper feeds grain to the two roller mills, which are mounted together on an axle.

"Doubled Up" Roller Mills Boost Capacity

Art Leefer runs high moisture corn through roller mills and then blows it into a bunker silo for storage. To get the job done faster and to keep up with his combine at harvest, the Carlinville, Ill., farmer "doubled up" two roller mills, mounting them side by side on an old combine axle.

Trucks unload shelled corn from the field into a swingaway auger which delivers the corn to the doubled-up mill. After the corn has been ground it's unloaded into a second auger, which delivers it into a bunker silo.

Leefer used two roller mills made by Automatic Equipment Co. of Pender, Neb. One mill was originally a portable, pto-driven model. The other was an electric-driven stationary model that Leefer had been using to process whole shelled corn out of his Harvestore silo. "When I quit using the Harvestore, I decided to put the two mills together," he says.

The stationary mill was equipped with a large 4-groove belt pulley. Leefer bought another 4-groove belt pulley and mounted it on the pto shaft on the pto-driven mill, then belted the two pulleys together so that both mills drive off the portable model's pto shaft. An idler at the bottom keeps the belts tight. He removed the tongue and axle from the pto-driven mill, then used 4 by 4-in. sq. tubing to build a frame big enough for both mills and mounted them side by side on it. Then he bolted the frame to the rear axle off an old Deere 95 combine and mounted a new tongue on it. He used sheet metal to build a 50-bu. hopper above both mills.



Pto shaft drives pulley on one of the mills, which in turn belt-drives the second mill.

Each mill was originally equipped with a bottom-mounted horizontal auger and gearbox that came out the back. Leefer lengthened the augers so they extend about 3 ft. behind the unit. He added a square steel spout at an angle onto the ends of both augers so they direct the corn together into a pile. A 10-in. dia. auger takes the corn from there to fill the bunker silo.

Leefer mounts an aluminum hopper behind the machine in order to meter inoculant into the high moisture corn as it's unloaded into the auger.

"It lets us grind about 1,200 bu. per hour. New commercial roller mills with comparable capacity sell for \$20,000 to \$30,000. I couldn't justify paying that much money for a machine that we only use for a week or two each year."

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Forage Wagon Speed Controlled From Tractor

Glen Schweppe, Syracuse, Neb., owns a pair of identical New Holland 816 side-unload forage wagons equipped with variable speed unloading conveyors. He uses them on-the-go to unload into silage bags. The problem was that one person had to control the wagons' unloading speed by manually moving a lever on front of the wagon, while another person operated the tractor. He eliminated the need for a second person by replacing the manual control lever with a 3 1/2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder controlled from the tractor cab.

He used angle iron to make a bracket for the two-way cylinder. One end of the cylinder attaches to the base of the lever inside the housing. The other end is attached to a steel rod that goes to the opposite side of the wagon.

"I paid \$59 for the cylinder which I bought at a surplus center," says Schweppe. "The cylinder has a lot of power so I had to beef



Schweppe attached a double-acting cylinder to the manual speed control lever on his New Holland forage wagon.

up the control lever to keep it from bending. I slipped a 3/4-in. dia. gas pipe over it. The cylinder moves a total distance of only 2.5/8 inches which is all the travel it needs."

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