

Add-On Air Reel Leaves Header Intact

"We worked with farmers for five years to design this air reel. They told us they wanted a more effective air system that would be simple, easy to maintain and reliable," says Jeff Dolmage of Temp Farm Equipment about the company's new Advanced Windreel System, which can be fitted to any combine header without replacing the existing factory finger reel.

The out-front AWS manifold places nozzles down between reel fingers, ahead of the knife. Air can be precisely targeted for a variety of crops. In fact, direction of air flow can be controlled from the cab with optional electric controls to adjust performance on-the-go.

"It provides a continuous flow of air to the crop as it is cut, resulting in an even flow into the combine with less crop damage. Consistent feeding allows operation of combine at full capacity with increased ground speed and better separation. It greatly reduces shatter loss by sweeping the crop off the cutterbar and into the combine," says Dolmage.

The bolt-on system installs on any header with little or no modification and the system

can be transferred to other heads, leaving the header in its original condition.

AWS also offers combine-mounted blowers (see photo at right) for Deere 9000 Series, 10 Series, 50 Series, and STS combines and Case-IH 21 and 2300 Series machines. Mounted on the right hand side of the combine, the simple belt drive chassis is driven directly off the separator drive. Header-mounted blowers are available for all makes and models.

"We're the only company to offer an air manifold with equalized air pressure across the entire width of the machine, giving you the same consistent feeding at each end of the head," says Dolmage. "Our fan is quiet and efficient, and can be fitted with a stationary or optional rotary inlet screen."

The new air reel sells for between \$6,000 and \$7,000 U.S., depending on model.

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Self-Leveling Sieve For Level Land Combines

If you'd like to get the benefits of a self-leveling combine without the cost of a special-built machine, you'll want to take a close look at this new self-leveling sieve for conventional combines.

"It greatly decreases grain loss on hillsides due to overloading of the low side of the combine at a fraction of the cost of a hillside combine," says Monte Miller, J & M Fabrication, Cheney, Wash.

The unit is designed to increase capacity and decrease grain loss of non-leveling Case-IH Axial Flow, Deere Maximizer, and Gleaner combines.

The sieve replaces the combine's original chaffer sieve. It's fitted with rigid steel deflectors that separate chaffer sections. The chaffer sections each pivot freely from left to right, controlled by a 20-lb. steel pendulum that hangs outside the combine. A control rod connected to pivoting chaffer sections turns as the pendulum swings. The unit simply

bolts to pre-existing holes with no cutting or welding.

"It keeps the chaffer sections parallel to the plane of the pendulum so they remain level on slopes at all times," says Miller. "The chaffer sections rotate from one side to the other while the rigid vertical deflectors keep grain from running downhill. On average, it lets you increase speed by 1 mph on hillsides with no grain loss. Another benefit is that it results in a cleaner grade of wheat because the sieve does a better job of cleaning when it's level."

"Hillside leveling systems add about \$40,000 to the cost of a combine. Our aftermarket sieve for non-leveling combines sells for \$3,500, and it works just as good as a full-blown hillside combine leveling system. The only limitation is that it can't be used on slopes greater than 32 degrees because of limitations on weight distribution for a non-leveling combine. However,



Sieve replaces combine's original chaffer sieve and is fitted with rigid steel deflectors that separate chaffer sections.

nowadays most of the steepest land is being planted to CRP grasses and isn't even being farmed," notes Miller.

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Grain Leg Key To Silo Grain Storage

You can convert unused silos into an efficient grain storage facility by setting up a conventional grain leg, says Mike Macho of Ag Services, Stewartville, Minn. He has helped several customers put their old silos back to work.

"The leg preserves kernel quality and provides efficiency that you don't get with an auger or blower," says Macho.

Stave silos require a few added modifications, such as aeration and regular monitoring, when grain is going to be stored for an extended period. Air tight Harvestores may get by with regular monitoring and careful placement of the loading spout and unloading auger.

"Silos need to be filled from the center and unloaded from the center," warns Macho. "Silos are strong enough to hold just anything if you put it in and take it out evenly."

Macho advises cutting holes at the bottom of stave silos to insert aeration tubes. When the silo cap is properly vented, a tube at the bottom should provide sufficient air

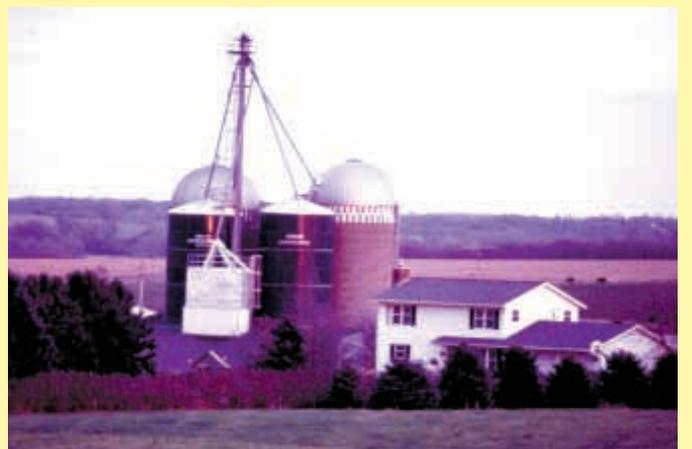
movement to protect grain. You could also put in an aeration floor but Macho feels tubes work better.

Schoenfelder Farms, Rochester, Minn., didn't need extra aeration in their grain storage silos because of high turnover of the stored grain. They ran grain legs to two stave and two Harvestore silos. Corn is brought in once or twice a month from their bulk grain storage facility seven or eight miles away.

"The silos give us storage for about three weeks to a month of feed," says Kenny Schoenfelder. "We could probably bring corn in a semi load at a time, but this way we don't have to bring it in during the busy spring and fall seasons."

One Harvestore holds cracked corn, while the other three hold whole kernel corn ready for ration grinding. Not only do the grain legs preserve quality, but they are fast and efficient, says Schoenfelder.

Macho suggests farmers interested in fitting silos with grain legs contact an ag services firm in their area that installs



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commercial grain legs.

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