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Reversing Gearbox Makes Auger Cleanout Easy

After receiving a large number of farmer requests for a better way to reverse grain augers, Bob Hawes and his associates at Hawes Agro Ltd., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, developed a reversing gearbox.

"It turned out to be a bit harder to do than we initially thought," Hawes says. "We thought it would be fairly easy to find a gearbox that would do this. What we found was there was nothing available that could do this and still fit the same footprint as the original gearbox."

After a couple years in development, Hawes finally has a product that works. They've applied for a patent on parts of the gearbox.

The gearbox resembles a small transmission, with a shifter that changes it from forward to neutral to reverse. It has a linkage and lever that allows it to be shifted even

when the auger is raised and the gearbox is too high to reach easily.

For convenience, an electric clutch is also available that allows the gearbox to be shifted without shutting down the power. Without the clutch, the drive should be shut down.

"The reversing gearbox can be used on any auger, regardless of drive system," Hawes says.

"It's a safe way to reverse a grain auger to clear a plug or empty it out to prevent cross contamination of grains," he says.

The gearbox itself sells for \$750 (Canadian). The optional electric clutch is another \$850.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hawes Agro Ltd., 833 50th St. East, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada. S7K 3Y5 (ph 866 373-8448 or 306 373-8448; email: bob.hawes@sk.sympatico.ca).

Custom-Made, On-Site Silo Doors

If you're having problems with leaks or old, rotten doors on your silo, Ed Cooper is the man to call. "I've worked with silos for over 25 years," he said. "I started making silo doors three years ago and have been busy since then."

Cooper works for Agri-Plastics, which also sells silo and feed bunk liners. They also re-finish silo roofs and chutes. The liners and "lumber" are made with high-density polyethylene plastic that won't rust or corrode.

"Plastic doors don't warp or leak as much as wood doors," says Cooper. "In some cases it is easier to fabricate a plastic door than it is a wood one." Agri-Plastics will come to your farm, measure the opening, and fabricate the doors on-site as soon as possible. "You save on the shipping costs and uncertainty of mail order. Also, on some of the older silos, the opening might have warped or been modified in some way where the original factory replacement wouldn't even fit," says Cooper.

Agri-Plastics offers a wide variety of straps and latches. He will travel all over the Midwest and further depending on the number of doors ordered. Because the doors are custom made, mail order is not available.



"High-density polyethylene silo doors don't warp or leak as much as wood doors," says Ed Cooper of Agri-Plastics.

There is a minimum order of 10 doors and each door is about \$35 to \$45, depending on the silo.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ed Cooper, 2368 100th St., New Richmond, Wis. 54017 (ph 800 776-5610 or 866 803-6011).

Growers Spray Crops With Milk

Spraying vegetable crops with milk is a promising new way to control powdery mildew, according to organic growers who've tried it in Australia.

The discovery was made at the Yanco Agricultural Institute in New South Wales when researchers started looking for an alternative to sulphur, which is what many organic growers use to control mildew. Sulphur is an inexpensive and effective fungicide but new

organic regulations may outlaw it.

Researchers applied milk as a cover spray in pumpkins and found it significantly reduced the incidence of the fungal disease, which causes leaves to wither, reducing yields and exposing the crop to sunburn.

The researchers also tried other methods, including potassium carbonate. But none of the alternative methods worked as well as milk. (*Town and Country Farmer*)



Harley Windrower can be mounted under any tractor or used as a pull-type to clear 8 to 10-ft. swaths of ground at a time.

"No Power" Rock Windrower

Harley Rock Picker Sales & Screening, Inc., has developed a new rock windrower that has no hydraulic motors and isn't powered by a pto. The Harley Windrower can be mounted under any tractor or used as a pull-type to prepare 8 to 10-ft. swaths of ground at a time. Once the depth is set, no other adjustment is needed.

"Our deluxe model is a 10-ft. pull-type that has 30 "S" tines, a rock-surface-leveler, weed eradicator, and a patent-pending "V" Windrower," says Harley Fahrenholz.

"The danish tines loosen the ground while the surfacer brings the rocks to the surface and levels the ground. The 'V' Windrower piles the rocks, up to 12-in. dia. into a windrow for hauling away," says Fahrenholz.

"The windrower has 4 gauge wheels that control the depth. Once you get it adjusted after a few hundred feet, all you have to do is raise and lower it on the end of the field," he says. "It always stays the same depth."

"We can also put a 10-ft. hydraulic drive roller on it to windrow one way or we can put a tooth windrower on it if you prefer," Fahrenholz notes.

The deluxe Harley Windrower sells for \$6,500. An economy model is available for \$3,000. Prices may change based on steel prices.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harley Rock Picker Sales & Screening, Inc., Box 184, Miltona, Minn. 56354 (ph 218 943-2458).

Design Change Improves Performance Of Tree Shear

One problem with hydraulic tree shears is that as soon as you start cutting into the tree, you have to keep applying forward pressure to keep the blades from slipping back off the tree. To solve that problem, Sidney Mfg. modified its Timberline Tree Shear by adding teeth to the stationary side of the shear.

"Cutting a 14-in. dia. tree in one cut is like trying to cut a dowel with a pair of scissors," says Mike Blackburn, sales manager for Sidney Manufacturing, who points out that having to apply continuous forward pressure also saps power from the machine.

The teeth added to the Sidney shear dig into the trunk as the blade begins to close, preventing slippage.

The shear rotates 90 degrees for vertical splitting so the teeth also help hold felled trees for further cutting or moving them.



Teeth added to stationary side of shear dig into tree trunk as blade begins to close, preventing slippage.

Sidney's modified tree shear sells for \$5,288.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sidney Manufacturing, Inc., P.O. Box 342, Sidney, Iowa 51652 (ph 866 567-9618 or 712 374-3366; website: www.gregorygrappeler.com).

Bungie Cord "Bale Garter"

"We feed round bales one at a time to cattle inside our barn during winter, but between feedings we like to keep the bales covered with plastic. I came up with a bungie cord bale garter that keeps the plastic tight around the bale as it gets smaller," says Boyd Crouse, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

A 42-in. length of bungie cord is fitted with a metal hook at each end. One end of the cord is hooked onto a rope with a 1 1/4-in. dia. lock washer attached to it at both ends. Eight 7/8-in. dia. lock washers, pressed flat, are braided into the rope at 12-in. intervals. The rope is 9 ft. long. The result is an elastic cord about 12 1/2 ft. long which can encircle the covered bale and securely hold the plastic bag in place. As the bale gets smaller in diameter, the open hook at the end of the bungie cord can be hooked into any of the small washers along the length of the cord.

He braided three cords of poly baler twine into a rope, melting down the ends to secure the washers. "We had been securing the bag with a length of baler twine. However, it can be quite a job to retie the twine with enough tension to keep the covering from blowing off the bale. I decided there had to be a better way," says Crouse.



Bungie cord "bale garter" keeps plastic tight around bale as it gets smaller.

As bale gets smaller, open hook at end of bungie cord can be hooked into any of several small washers along length of cord.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Boyd R. Crouse, RR 3, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 2C0 (ph 902 634-3468).