



Batz made his "bedding blower" by mounting an Allis-Chalmers silo blower - equipped with the spout off a Fox pull-type silage chopper - on back of a Farmhand tub grinder.

SILO BLOWER MOUNTS ON BACK

## Tub Grinder Doubles As A "Bedding Blower"

Looking for an easier way to put corn stalk bedding in his 80-ft. long Cover-All "hoop" hog buildings, Douglas Batz, Lytton, Iowa, converted an old Farmhand 880 tub grinder into a "bedding blower" by mounting an Allis-Chalmers silo blower - equipped with the spout off a Fox pull-type silage chopper - on back of it.

"I use it to shred round corn stalk bales and then blow the chopped stalks into both ends of the buildings. It blows the stalks 30 to 40 ft.," says Batz.

He bought a used tub grinder from a Colorado dealer for \$3,000 and paid \$100 for the silo blower. The tub grinder's knives are pto-driven and the tub is rotated by a hydraulic motor-driven rubber tire mounted on back. The tub grinder was originally equipped with a chain conveyor at the bottom that delivered shredded material onto a belt conveyor that stuck out the back of the machine. Batz removed the belt conveyor and replaced it with a small U-shaped steel trough that delivers shredded stalks directly into the blower.

The blower was originally equipped with a 12-ft. conveyor which Batz removed. The tub grinder's driveshaft turned in the opposite direction required by the blower so he had to find a way to reverse direction to power the blower. The blower was originally equipped with a pto shaft and right angle gearbox that belt-drove the fan. He added a second gearbox (salvaged from an old New Idea 717 combine) in front of the blower gearbox and ran a shaft from that gearbox to an adaptor on the tub grinder driveshaft.



Batz uses grinder-blower to shred corn stalk bales and blow chopped stalks into both ends of his 80-ft. long Cover-All "hoop" hog buildings.

He mounted the silo blower on a frame made out of 3-in. sq. steel tubing that bolts to the back of the tub grinder. He also bolted the Fox silage chopper's directional spout on top of the blower.

Batz finishes out about 200 hogs in each of three 30 by 84-ft. Cover-All buildings. "I had been using a loader to drop the bales over a 4-ft. high gate at the end of each building. Then I had to roll the bales into the building, cut the twine, and spread the stalks. Corn stalk bales aren't easy to roll around, especially after they settle.

"I use a 160 hp tractor to operate the bedding blower. I mounted a crank on the blower chute so that I can manually direct it from side to side.

"It works better than commercial round bale shredder-blowers which can blow corn stalks only about 15 ft. or less. Some tub grinders can distribute material onto the ground in a pile or blow it onto a wagon, but they can't blow the stalks over a gate. I got a good deal on the tub grinder - normally a used one like mine would sell for \$6,000 to \$7,000. My total cost was less than \$3,500.

"I wanted to use an in-line reversible gearbox with a 1:1 ratio to drive the blower but I couldn't find one. I decided to use the Allis-Chalmers silo blower because it already had a right angle gearbox.

"The frame that holds the blower on the tub grinder is hinged so I can swing the blower away whenever I want."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Douglas Batz, 2452 Fletcher Ave., Lytton, Iowa 50561 (ph and fax 712 466-2446).



A small liquid-filled cylinder measures pressure caused by weight of bale after it comes out of baler and falls onto a catch pan.

"MORE ACCURATE THAN ANY OTHER  
BALER-MOUNTED SCALE ON THE MARKET"

## Baler-Mounted Weigh Scale

"Our new weigh scale consistently weighs each bale on a separate 'catch pan' just before it drops onto the ground. It's the most accurate baler-mounted scale on the market," says Everitt Rankins, Tracy, Calif.

The system uses a small liquid-filled cylinder to measure pressure caused by the weight of the bale. As the bale comes out of the baler it makes a 1/4 turn and falls onto the catch pan. A steel rod and a hinging bracket extend from the catch pan to the cylinder mounted on the side of the baler. The weight of the bale puts pressure on the cylinder. The pressure is recorded on a gauge mounted on front of the baler, allowing the operator to see the bale's weight at a glance right from the tractor. The bale stays on the chute until the next bale comes along and pushes it to the ground.

"Other bale weight scales try to measure bale weight when the bale is still on the back of the baler. The problem is that when hay is dry the bale doesn't stay there long enough for its weight to be recorded accurately," says Rankins. "Our gauge reads in psi's so you have to calibrate it at the beginning of the haying season by weighing a bale on another scale and then adjusting the gauge



A steel rod and a hinging bracket extend from catch pan to cylinder.

accordingly. For example, a 90-lb. straw bale might read out as 100 lbs. of pressure on the gauge. Eventually we plan to pre-calibrate the gauge so that you don't have to do any pre-calibration. A pilot light on the gauge allows it to be seen at night. The chute can be raised into transport position along with the endgate.

"We currently offer only one model which is designed for the New Holland 500 baler. However, we plan to come out with a model for the Hesston 4690 in-line baler."

Sells for \$650.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rankins Ag Inc., 16850 Tracy Blvd., Tracy, Calif. 95376 (ph 209 835-6254; fax 209 835-6826).

## Replacement Wheel For Center Pivots Made From "Space Age" Material

New "Mach II" replacement wheel for center pivot irrigation systems is made from an aerospace composite material that has the same tensile strength as steel yet weighs only about one third as much.

"It will outlast conventional rubber tires by years and has superior traction due to widely-spaced deep lugs that run straight across the face of the wheel as well as along both sides," says Clayton Higgins, Heartland Co-op, Trumbull, Neb. "What's more, it's resistant to chemicals so it won't deteriorate and it can't go flat like a rubber tire.

"The first time people see it they often call it a plastic wheel, but it's not. The material it's made from is widely used in the aircraft and aerospace industry. Each wheel weighs about 100 lbs. less than wheels fitted with rubber tires of the same size. They'll fit any center pivot brand and can be used on any combination of towers.

"Many farmers with center pivots are switching to taller 11.2 by 38 replacement tires for improved traction. Our wheel is a couple inches taller than even those tires. A big problem with rubber tires is they



have a tractor tire lug design that fills up with mud, causing the wheel to spin and get stuck. The cleats on our wheel are deep and are spaced farther apart. Also, they go straight across both sides of the wheel like the lugs found on old-time tractors with steel wheels. The result is that they're far less likely to get stuck.

"They sell for \$75 to \$100 more than rubber tires. To install it you simply remove the original wheel and bolt the new one on."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clayton Higgins, Heartland Co-op, 674 Hartford St., Trumbull, Neb. 68980 (ph 800 325-2379 or 402 743-2381).