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Revolutionary Row Crop Head

A revolutionary new "reelless" row crop head developed by a South Dakota farmer-engineer uses belt-mounted bristles in place of gathering chains and replaces the sickle bar with notched cutting discs to drastically reduce shatter loss and pick up downed or low-lying crops.

The new "all row crop" harvester consists of individual row harvesting units that mount on stripped-down grain platforms. Inventor Ray Pavel, Avon, S. Dak., told FARM SHOW he believes it's the best row crop head ever built. "We've run side by side with Deere's row crop head and there's no comparison. This head has more capacity under most conditions, has no problems with dirt and rocks, does a

better job handling weeds, and requries a lot less maintenance. We can run the cutting discs an inch underground to get the lowest-growing pods with no problem at all. It provides a perfect cut even at high speeds and saves 1 to 10 bu. per acre in soybeans, depending on conditions, with similar savings in other row crops that tend to shatter, like millet and safflower. It's also a top sunflower harvesting head and it can be used to pick up down corn."

Pavel has worked on the brush gathering design since the 1960's when he worked at Melroe Mfg. At that time Melroe sold a brush gathering kit that mounted on a conventional (Continued on next page)



Photo by Robert Tupper

Individually floating row units mount on stripped-down grain platform. Nylon bristles gently draw crop into head, salvaging shattered grain while unique cutting discs slice through stalks.

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