

Combination Threshing Outfits

Continued from Page 7

to provide granary room for it all at once, which was a big item. With the small outfit you can keep hauling out as fast as you like.—G. M. PHELPS.

Advantages and Disadvantages

I purchased last fall for my own use a 28-in. separator and 8 h.p. engine with trucks. The separator is hand fed and has straw carriers, but has grain spout, which will put grain in wagon box or granary. The engine is fully large enough for this separator. Last season was bad for threshing, the straw was always tough and a lot of straw in proportion to grain. The outfit was new to us and so we did not get the best out of it. We threshed an average of 400 bushels of wheat and 900 bushels of oats per day, using two stook teams, one pitcher in the field, a feeder, and man to look after the straw.

The straw carriers bothered us most as the slats kept continually coming off the belts. This was partly due to the carriers not being quite level. We tried rivetting the slats to the belt, but even these occasionally cut thru the belt. Counting cost of gasoline and wages for three extra men my threshing last fall cost me from 2½c. to 3c. all round, not counting anything for interest or depreciation. I use the machine only for my own threshing, my main object in purchasing was to avoid getting in more weeds which cannot be avoided when employing a large custom outfit, and also that the men on the farm could get on with the fall work without having to go to all the neighbors to pay back work.

Can Get Clean Grain

Compared with the larger outfits the work is naturally slower, but greater care can be given to have grain well cleaned and also less grain will be lost in the straw. This was watched very closely last fall, and with the machine I never found at any time any loose grain going over with the straw.

The advantages, in my opinion, as compared with the larger outfits are:—1. Weed control, that is by threshing only on one's own farm no new varieties of weeds need be introduced. 2. Work can be commenced whenever grain is ready and fall plowing done even when only part of grain is threshed should weather turn wet. 3. At a pinch work can be done even with only three men, but of course not at full capacity. With about five men (two teams, feeder, pitcher and straw man), the machine can be kept running full in any ordinary crop, provided the haul is not too far. Threshing about 500 to 600 bushels of wheat at a setting would appear better than trying to do more, on account of handling straw and a further haul for the stook teams when threshing more than this without moving. When threshing into wagon boxes the machine can be moved at every 100 bushels or so, and very little difficulty with straw need be experienced. 4. The annual threshing bill will, in a year or so, depending on the amount threshed, soon pay for a small machine. 5. The engine can be used all year for small jobs, such as crushing grain, etc.; we use ours without dismantling it, having the crusher and machine in the same shed. 6. Very little time is lost moving from one setting to another and getting started again.

Disadvantages are as follows:—1. Labor. It will generally be difficult to get extra men to hire on for only ten days or two weeks' threshing, while the larger outfits can give from six to eight weeks continuous work. 2. Longer time actually threshing. If a farmer can rely on getting a big machine every season just when he wants it, he probably would not need a small outfit. 3. Some extra expense will be entailed in buildings, as it would not be economy to leave the outfit exposed. The life of the machine would be very short I imagine under such treatment. 4. There is, of course, the objection to handling straw and hand feeding. More expensive outfits have blower and feeder, but, in my opinion, the extra cost is out of all proportion to the advantages of these attachments provided the two



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