

This plant uses cobs to dry corn

WATERMAN, Ill. — A combustible gas made from corn cobs is drying seed corn this fall at the Waterman, Illinois seed corn plant of

DeKalb AgResearch, Inc. Cobs are a low value by-product of seed corn production.

The gasification of

biomass materials such as wood isn't a new science. In Europe, where fossil fuels are more scarce and higher priced, wood gasification to

provide fuel has at times been common.

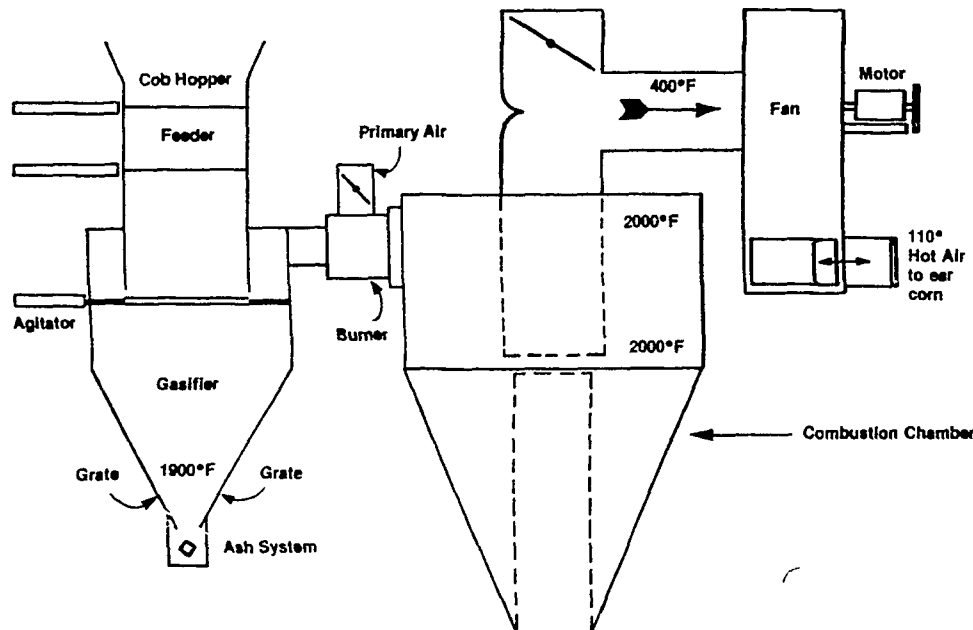
For example, many vehicles in Europe were operated on wood-gas during World War II when oil becomes scarce. Cars and trucks carried, or pulled on trailers, their own wood gasifiers.

Since the beginning of the energy crisis in the United States, biomass gasification has received renewed attention. An eastern company built and drove across the country a wood-gas automobile, and researchers at the University of Florida

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Chuck Lindhart, former York District Manager, now in charge of seed operations for DeKalb, displays some of the cobs the company is using in its new cob gasifier that is used to dry a portion of its hybrid seed production crop. Once burned they are extremely light in weight and black like charcoal.



This simplified drawing of DeKalb's Waterman, Ill. seed drying facility shows how the cobs come in at one end to be burned and the resulting warm air is used to dry grain.

Patz

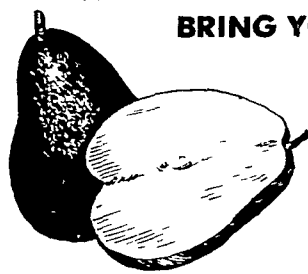
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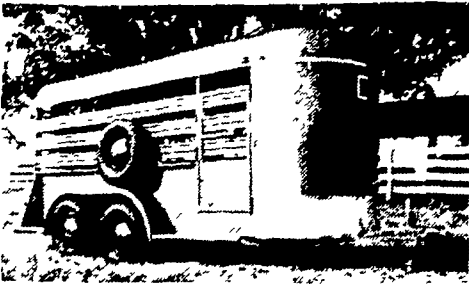
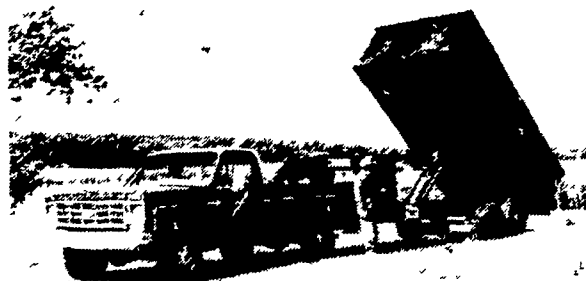
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