

IT'S IN THE BAG

A less expensive, South American way of storing grain has begun to catch on in the States.

WHEN Jesse and Matt Doll's four Gleaner® combines pull into a new field in southwest Kansas, they don't just start around the field or down the rows. The first thing they do is cut out an area large enough to accommodate their grain bagger and several 250-foot plastic bags. Once filled with the aid of an extra tractor and a bagging machine, the bags will serve as storage for the next 6 to 12 months.

"The biggest reason we started putting grain in bags was to cut down on labor requirements," says Jesse Doll, pointing out that their first experience at putting grain in bags was during the 2008 wheat harvest. "A large number of our fields are at least 20 miles or more from our farm headquarters or the nearest elevator. As a result, we would need at least five truck drivers, in addition to our

To unload the bags, the Dolls use a home-built machine—similar to unloaders now on the market—that rolls up the plastic bag as a cross auger gathers grain for transfer into the truck.



The bags (left), some 250-foot-long are surprisingly resilient. Matt Doll visits with Bruce Baldwin (below), owner of Kalvesta Implement Co. Inc. in Kalvesta, Kans., about the performance of the Dolls' AGCO equipment, including four Gleaner combines.

