



These 7 jars range from nearly full to practically empty, yet each contain the same number of soybean seeds.

LETS YOU "GRADE" SEED COMPANIES ON THEIR PERFORMANCE

New "Soybean Sizer" Helps Boost Yields

Seed corn has been graded to size for years but soybean seed often varies in size — from small seed of 4,000 seeds per pound to large seed of 1,500 seeds per pound, even in the same lot of seed.

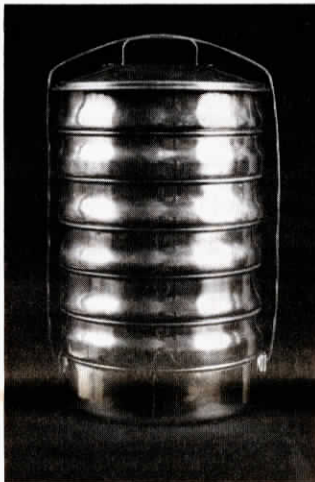
"Because seed size isn't uniform, it's next to impossible to set seed rates correctly. Therefore, yields are usually below what they easily could be," says Roger Peters, farmer from Oak Harbor, Ohio, who's son Dan has patented a new "soybean sizer" that the Peters claim has boosted yields as much as 55% on their own farm.

"Every farmer has had the experience of ending up a field with 10 to 15 extra bushels of seed that he wished were planted, or of running short before finishing when he should have had plenty to spare. We've checked plant populations in local fields and found variations among similar varieties from 58,000 plants per acre to 338,000 plants per acre. We can eliminate these variations with our sizer, and boost yields," says Peters.

The soybean sizer, called the Accu-Bean-Chek, is 10-in. in dia. and about 16 in. tall. It has six layers of precision tooled screens with openings ranging from 19/64 to 14/64 in. in dia., top to bottom. To determine the number of seeds per pound, a sample of seed is poured into the top of the unit and then the unit is gently rocked by hand. This causes the seeds to sift down through the six layers, sorting themselves out to size. Once all the seeds are settled, you count the seeds on each layer and, using charts supplied with the sizer, determine the number of seeds per pound.

Once you have the number of seeds per pound in a particular lot of seed, you take that number to another chart and determine how many pounds per acre must be planted to arrive at a desired plant population. The entire process takes 10 to 15 min.

"Since seed is packed by lots you don't have to check each bag. And, even if the company lists the number of seeds per pound on their bags, our sizer allows you to check their figures and determine how good a job they are doing," explains Peters. "We've found that many of the top farmers and yields contest winners are aware of the soybean seed problem and have



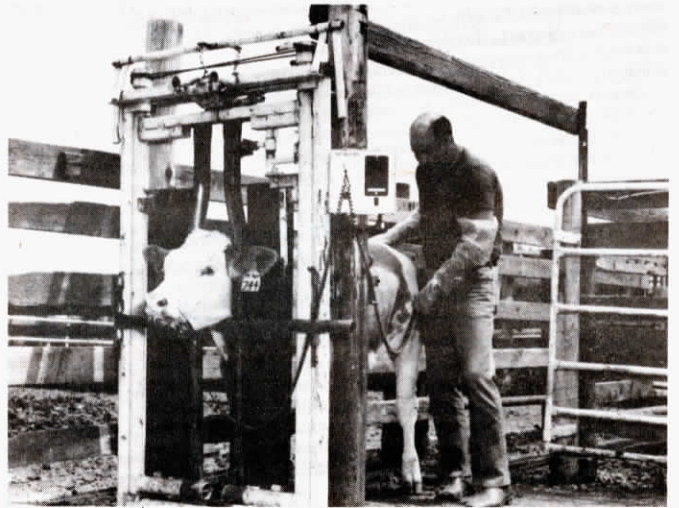
This 16 in. sizer is used to determine true seed size for accurate plant population control.

found their own way to size seed for correct populations.

"When purchasing certified seed, you should buy a small seeded variety. At equal population, small seed at 3,000/lb. versus larger seed at 2,000/lb. will plant three acres instead of two — a one-third savings on seed cost per acre. At \$15 per bushel for certified seed, that immediately saves you \$5.00 for every acre you plant. University tests have shown there is no noticeable decrease in viability for small seed varieties. Farmers can also check their own cleaned bin-run seed. Sizing will prevent overplanting small seed — which can reduce yield due to lodging, barren stalks, and so forth — or underplanting larger seeds, which could result in thin stands," says Peters.

The Accu-Bean-Chek soybean sizer, complete with sizer and charts, sells for \$189. The Peters also sell corn and soybean charts that let you accurately check plant populations in minutes by counting the number of plants in a short section of row. They sell for \$5.95 per chart, or \$10 for both.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Accu-Bean-Chek, P.O. Box 218, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449 (ph 419 898-1210).



Animals "freeze" when the Ag-Tronics immobilizer is applied, and return to normal instantly once it is released.

BATTERY OPERATED DEVICE HOLDS ANIMALS MOTIONLESS FOR CASTRATION, DEHORNING

Ag-Tronics Unveils New Livestock Immobilizer

By Mark Jacobs, Associate Editor

Interest is mounting in that new "electronic" way to immobilize livestock which we first told you about in FARM SHOW last fall (Vol. 5, No. 5 issue).

Our initial report featured the Australian-made Feenix Stockstill which has since made headlines in most other farm magazines.

Latest new development is the Vet Master, a similar electronic livestock immobilizer introduced by Ag-Tronics, of Hastings, Neb.

The Vet Master and Stockstill are similar in that they both operate on an ordinary 6 volt lantern battery to hold animals — including the biggest, meanest bull — completely motionless with the application of very minute electric pulses. The pulses cause the skeletal muscles to contract, holding the animal motionless while you brand, castrate, dehorn or vaccinate it.

"The Vet Master uses a rectal probe rather than under-the-skin probes, which the Stockstill uses, to immobilize large animals," explains Case Mooibroek, Ag-Tronics vice president of marketing. "The advantage of the rectal probe is that it provides better electrode placement without piercing the animal's skin. Research shows that immobilization is painless and immediate."

Mooibroek, adds that the Vet Master also differs from the Stockstill in that the Vet Master uses a 100 pulse-per-second electrical rate to immobilize the animal. "Our studies show that this is easier on the animals, causes less stress and does an equal job of holding the animal."

The Vet Master kit includes under-the-skin probes for smaller animals, or for immobilizing "local" areas such as a leg, hip or shoulder.



The Vet Master kit includes smaller probes for smaller animals, or for immobilizing local areas such as a leg, hip or shoulder.

Also included are telephone-type lead cords that help prevent tangling of the cord between the animal and the power unit, and a warning light that indicates if the charge on the replaceable 6 volt battery is low.

To immobilize an animal, you simply clamp the mouth clamp on the side of the animal's mouth and insert the rectal probe (or, on smaller animals, insert the needle probe under the skin).

"If the animal isn't standing squarely on all four legs when the pulse is turned on, the animal will fall to one side," explains Mooibroek. "You can solve this problem by placing the animal in a chute when using the Vet Master," he adds.

The Vet Master features two ranges of power output — one for large and one for small animals.

Currently, Ag-Tronics is selling the Vet Master only through veterinarians. Says Mooibroek: "This is to help ensure that proper procedures are followed when using the unit."

Sells for \$1,295.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag-Tronics, Inc., Hastings, Neb. 68901 (ph toll free 800 228-1002; In Nebraska or outside the U.S., call 402 462-2181).