



“Rotary” manure spreader “shreds” manure and applies it in a thin layer that quickly dissipates. It’s offered in three different sizes.



Unit consists of a big expanded metal drum with 1-in. diamond-shaped holes all the way around. Drum rotates as it’s pulled through the field.

First-Of-Its-Kind Rotary Spreader “Shreds” Manure

You’ve never seen anything like this new dry “rotary” manure spreader that “shreds” manure and applies it in a thin layer that quickly dissipates, instead of dropping big chunks like most conventional manure spreaders.

“It works amazingly well and doesn’t have any belts, chains, or gears to wear out,” say inventors Linda and Mike Stabler of Waterloo, Ind. “We developed it for use in our own small horse stable but the concept works on a larger scale, too.”

The 4-wheel, pull-type unit can be pulled by a garden tractor or 4-wheeler. It consists of a big expanded metal drum with 1-in. diamond shaped holes all the way around. The top third of drum hinges open for loading.

To spread a load, the operator pushes a le-

ver to lower the drum until it contacts the wheels, which causes the drum to rotate as it’s pulled through the field. The weight of the manure and rotation of the drum causes manure to “rain” from the bottom of the drum in a thin, shredded layer. A metal arm hangs freely from a shaft that goes through the drum and rotates along with the manure until the drum is almost empty. The arm goes up the side of the drum and then falls, squeezing the remaining manure through the mesh.

“It works amazingly well and can be built small enough to pull down through the aisle of a barn,” says Linda. “Mike and I came up with the idea because we have a pasture in front of our home, and we didn’t like seeing big chunks of manure there that took a long

time to go away. If you don’t have a lot of land, you have to let the pasture go fallow for a year or more. On the other hand, shredding the manure causes it to dry out in a day or two, when horses can again graze over it.

“We’ve only used the spreader on horse manure with sawdust, wood chips or pelleted bedding in it. But it should work on any kind of manure without excessive amounts of straw. The weight of the manure in the drum is enough to shred it.”

According to Stabler, you can let the unit sit outside until it’s full and if it gets rained on, it’ll work even better because the manure gets heavier, which will cause it to roll out

faster and shred better. They plan to develop an insulated cover for the drum that will keep manure from freezing inside it during winter.

The spreader is offered in three different sizes. An 11.3 cu. ft. model sells for \$975; a 22 cu. ft. model for \$1,495; and a 35 1/2 cu. ft. model for \$1,950. They also plan to build a 50 cu. ft. model. The drums are powder coated and guaranteed for five years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Linda Stabler, 1951 Co. Rd. 23, Waterloo, Ind. 46793 (ph 877 695-8582; email: rotaryspreader@thestablers.com; website: www.theStablers.com).

Rare Chicken Has A 5-Ft. Long Tail

Donald Barger vividly recalls the first time he saw an Onagadori. It was in the December 1970 issue of National Geographic. “I can remember back then saying I was going to own them someday,” he says.

Onagadori are ancient birds from Japan with incredibly long tail feathers that sometimes reach 30 ft. or more.

People in Western Europe adopted the bird but they modified it into a breed now called the Phoenix. Today, few true original Onagadori exist in Asia and there are none in the United States.

Barger is trying to change that by reversing the process that created the Phoenix. “It’s about breeding back to the original genes so they’re expressed,” he says.

Barger breeds and sells his long-tailed Phoenix. They molt at least every year and their black tail feathers grow to 5 to 6 ft. long.

And contrary to how they look, they can fly. “I’ve seen females fly around the yard a couple of times before landing,” he says.

To keep the tails neat, the birds need to be kept in a tall pen with shelf-type perches.

Other than dealing with the tail feathers, Barger says taking care of them isn’t any different than taking care of any other birds.

People buy the Phoenix for pleasure and as show birds. Their price depends on the tail feather length. Some can cost from \$25 to \$50 while other breeders sell the birds at \$50 per foot of tail feather. If the tail feather was 3 ft. long, it’d be worth \$150.

Although Barger has had Phoenix for nine years, he’s always thrown away the molted feathers except when people wanted them for crafts or decoration. However, recently he discovered the fly fishing market. “Before I realized there was a market for them, the feathers just fell on the ground and they got cleaned up with the litter,” he says.

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Phoenix are descendants of ancient birds from Japan with incredibly long tail feathers that sometimes reach 30 ft. or more.



Manually-operated hand cart can be used to both lift and transport big rocks that weigh 300 lbs. or more.

Leveraged Hand Cart Moves Heavy Load

Last summer Don Engbrecht and his wife Betty constructed paths in their flower gardens using natural granite fieldstone. To do the job, they used a manual-operated rock lifter and mover that Don built.

The two-wheeled hand cart is equipped with a long handle with a chain and hook at one end. To raise the rock, the operator simply pushes down on the handle.

“We live in a stone house which is now almost 100 years old,” says Don. “When we bought our property, it also had a two-story

house on the other half section. It was demolished in the 1970’s and the rocks were all saved for future use. Now almost 30 years later we’re using these big rocks, some of which weigh 300 lbs. or more, to line both sides of the path. We filled the path itself with gravel. Without our hand cart, we never could have done this project.”

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