

Products Boost Performance Of Deere Air Seeders

If you have a Deere air seeder, you know it can be improved. The steel manifold covers can damage seed being blown at them at speeds of 30 to 50 mph. High-speed airflow can blow seed and fertilizer into and then out of the seed slot, and clumping in seed tubes can be a problem. Also, down pressure on openers is often not enough to penetrate tractor and air cart tracks, leaving seed and fertilizer on or too close to the soil surface. Phil Needham, Needham Technologies, claims he has simple solutions for all these problems.

"We sell poly Seedliners for the manifold covers, Seed Brakes to prevent bounces from the seed slot and clumping, and Spring Spacers for added pressure on openers," he says.

Needham designed and began selling the Seedliners this past year. The high-density poly diverter has a cone shape to divert seeds and reduce seed damage. It fits inside the steel manifold covers on Model 50, 60 and 90 Deere air seeders.

"The impact can especially damage soybeans, peas and canola seed, but even wheat," he says. "Producers often try to run a low fan speed to minimize seed bounce and seed injury, but if the fan speed is too low, plugging of seed tubes can occur."

Seed Brakes resolve the seed bounce and clumping problem. Available for 10 years in Canada, Needham began selling them two years ago. Installed above the seed boot, the perforated stainless steel tube allows most of the air to dissipate. "This keeps the seed from being blown out of the seed slot," he explains. "Also, a baffle inside helps even out seed flow to eliminate clumping in the tube."

To increase down pressure, Needham has introduced a simple solution. He designed a spring spacer of 3/8-in. thick material to insert in the springs. "It's just enough to increase down pressure," he says. "They provide roughly 75 lbs. additional down pressure per opener."

Seedliners are priced at \$60 each. Seed Brakes are priced at \$27.95 each, and Spring Spacers are priced at \$25 each.

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Installed above the seed boot, the Seed Brake is a perforated stainless steel tube. It allows most of the air to dissipate, which keeps the seed from being blown out of the seed slot.



Seedliner is a high-density poly diverter with a cone shape that reduces seed damage.



Spring Spacers are inserted into springs to increase down pressure on openers. Photo below shows spacer installed.



How To Catch A Gopher Every Time

John Dolinsky, El Cajon, Calif., had a gopher problem but didn't want to use poison. So after watching an owl catch a gopher one night, he came up with an idea that makes use of old-fashioned metal gopher traps - and grass.

"It works unbelievably well and will catch a gopher every time. Many times I've caught gophers in 10 minutes or less using this method," says Dolinsky.

He sets the trap in the tunnel and attaches a string to it and also a big stick so the gopher can't carry the trap down the tunnel. Then after placing the trap inside, he picks a big handful of fresh grass and stuffs it inside the tunnel.

"I observed that gophers come out of their tunnels at night to eat grass, and that's when owls come down to grab them," says Dolinsky. "I'm just giving them the same food, but they have to walk over the trap to get to it."

"Gophers don't like light, so I also cover the tunnel to make it dark again by plac-

ing a lid over the tunnel and covering it with dirt. That way the gopher won't try to block the light by pushing dirt onto the trap," says Dolinsky.

"The gophers smell the fresh grass and know it's inside their tunnel. But they've got to cross a land mine to get at the food. Often, I don't have to wait more than 10 minutes after setting the trap before I'll catch a gopher. I can put out six or seven traps, wait a couple of minutes, and then start pulling them back out. It's almost like catching fish, and I have my limit in just 10 minutes."

He puts the dead gophers back down in the same tunnel so other gophers won't use it again. "They'll smell the dead gopher and go somewhere else, because they know something happened to the previous one," notes Dolinsky.

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Watering cattle on the range is just one of the many uses for solar-powered pumps available from Solar Power and Pump Co.

He Specializes In Solar-Powered Pumps

You can use solar-powered pumps just about anywhere, from supplying water pressure at a cabin to watering cattle on the range. What's more, one unit can service multiple wells.

"Customers can set up a portable solar pumping unit by mounting solar panels on a trailer," explains Dennis Austin, Solar Power and Pump Co. "When they're finished watering cattle at one location, they pull the pump and head to the next well. As long as the wells are the same depth and producing enough water to accommodate the pump, it works fine."

Austin carries a number of different pumps, solar cell systems and controllers. One of the features of the Lorentz pumps he sells is that the pump, motor and controller are all separate parts, making them easier to repair or replace. The water-filled, brushless, DC motor is maintenance-free. Pump styles include helical rotor, centrifugal, vane type, submersible and surface or floating pumps.

While they can be battery-powered, Austin advises customers to size and design systems that use solar power directly. For those who wish to store electricity for nighttime use, he sells charge controllers that prevent overcharging a system and controllers with low voltage protection built in.

"We offer 12, 24 and 48-volt systems," he says. "Prices can range from \$2,200 to \$10,000 for a complete system."

Smaller systems for surface water movement, such as pressurizing a holding tank for a cabin, are less. Often operating for only an hour or so a day, they have very small power needs. They can sell for as low as \$1,000.

"Prices depend on pump and solar array



Company offers a number of different pumps, solar cell systems and controllers.

size," he says. "Generally, if your water source is 1/3 mile or more from a power line, solar can be a good economic choice. While initial costs compare to windmills, lifetime costs will be much lower."

Austin suggests sizing a solar-powered pumping system based on gallons per day needed. If a home-based power system is already in place, Austin suggests doing a load analysis before adding a pump.

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Geringhoff Folding Small Grains Header

Geringhoff's new folding grain header was on display at a recent farm show in France, where it attracted a lot of interest.

The folding header makes road transport easier, eliminating the need to remove the header from the combine when going between fields. It uses a hydraulic drive mechanism for the table auger instead of belt and chain drive, allowing it to fold easily into transport mode. The entire folding procedure is controlled by in-cab controls.

A spokesman for Aemsco Co. in Minot, N. Dak., a distributor, says they've been marketing a folding Geringhoff corn header since 2005. They won't be selling the Geringhoff folding grain



Geringhoff's new folding grain header folds to about 12 ft. wide.

header, though, because it's too small for most North American farms. Geringhoff's largest folding small grains header measures 25 ft. wide and folds to about 12 ft.