

U.S.-Built Pellet Mills ‘Built To Last’

“I enjoyed reading your article about cutting edge pellet-making machines (Vol. 33, No. 1) and agree with you about the future of pellet mills. But why would you feature Chinese-made pellet mills when you can get a better built, more reliable product that’s made in the U.S.,” says John Elliott, sales manager at Buskirk Engineering, Bluffton, Ind.

The company recently introduced two farm-sized pellet mills. Model 800 operates either on single or 3-phase electricity and has a capacity of up to 800 lbs. of pellets per hour. Model 1200 is pto-driven and has a capacity of up to 1,700 lbs. It comes with a 3-pt. mounting frame and requires a tractor with at least 20 hp.

“These mills are priced competitively with the small Chinese-made models but perform similar to the large industrial models that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars,” says John Buskirk.

According to Buskirk, both models have some features not found on other pellet mills on the market.

- **Low speed, high torque:** The mill’s main shaft spins a pair of rollers that push material through the die, rather than the die spinning like on other models. It results in higher quality, more durable pellets with fewer fines, says the company. It’s also more mechanically efficient.

- **Multi-directional keypad:** This feature is found only on model 800. At the touch of a button, the operator can vary the speed of the rollers as well as switch the rollers’ direction between forward and reverse. “We call it variable frequency drive. It lets you run some materials through at a slower speed than others, to get the right amount of pressure for making the pellet. And if the rollers start to plow due to inconsistent moisture, you can reverse their direction to free them,” says Buskirk.

- **Process wood pellets:** Depending on the price, either shelled corn or commercial wood pellets can be used as a filler to reduce the cost of making pellets. “Most other mills can’t handle hard commercial pellets unless you grind them up first. Our mills have enough torque to eat right through them,” says Buskirk. “Some customers prefer to mix corn with pellets just because they think the addition of corn helps the pellets burn better.”

Buskirk says customers who’ve field-tested units used many different kinds of materials,

including animal bedding, horse and poultry manure, and all sorts of wood products including waste wood and sawdust.

Whatever material is used, it should contain 10 to 20 percent moisture, he says.

Depending on the kind of material, there can be a big difference in the amount of natural lignin contained. Lignin is the material that holds pellets together. Pelletizing as a whole is an art rather than a science, says Buskirk. “Wood is a very fibrous product, so

sometimes you need to use lubricants so the die will do a better job of pushing materials through. Common lubricants include vegetable oil, soybean oil, distiller’s grain, and glycerin, or you can use commercially available binders and lubricants.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon Elliott, Buskirk Engineering, 311 South State Road 301, Bluffton, Ind. 46714 (ph 260 273-0917; jelliott@buskirkeng.com; www.buskirkeng.com).



Add-On Laser Guide For Power Saws

“Our add-on Laser US-guide turns on automatically when the blade starts to rotate. It shows a laser line where the blade cuts. It also high-lights any body parts that may be exposed. And it eliminates off-mark cuts and saves you money on the cost of wood. The beam shuts off as soon as the blade slows down. New store saws have to be turned on and it’s easy to forget to switch them off, wearing out the batteries. Laser US customers marvel at the life of the batteries. We include 2 sets with each Laser US guide,” says Bob Kelly, whose son, Robert, invented and patented the new guide.

When the company Robert worked for moved overseas, he formed Laser US Inc with co-worker and engineer, Paul Bonsi. They focused on developing a line of laser guides for chop, miter, abrasive, radial and hand power saws. They started marketing these guides only to discover a foreign tool company had stolen the patent and was selling his design to saw manufacturers. Says Kelly, “They even had my patent number on their counterfeit units.” Kelly sued and after 5 years won the case, but the lawyers got the cash. Starting from scratch, Kelly and Bonsi began manufacturing and marketing for the aftermarket.

But within a year Robert became disabled by a brain aneurysm. His father, Bob Kelly, moved from Los Angeles to Grants Pass, Ore., and joined with Paul to handle Robert’s affairs along with the marketing of the Laser US Guides.

Bob says, “While the guides fit 97% of all saws, we guarantee 100% satisfaction. No fit/don’t like, return it and get all your cash back. We are very proud of our product. It’s great to hear from people who have bought one,” says Bob. “One fellow said it was better than toilet paper.” Many buy second and third guides to give as gifts. “Installing it is easy. Just replace the existing washer with the guide.”

Models #12200M and 12200C fit saws that use a bolt or screw to hold the washer/



Designed for chop, miter, abrasive, radial and hand power saws, the add-on laser guide turns on automatically only when the blade starts to rotate and shuts off when it stops.



Laser guides are available for a variety of saw types.

blade (most miter, chop and circular hand saws). These guides are priced at \$24.95. Models #15500R & 15500W are designed for saws that use a nut to hold the washer/blade (radial arm and worm-drive saws). These guides are \$28.95. Model 18800 fit saws with 117 mm and 1-in. arbor/shafts. This is the largest unit and sells for \$39.95. All come packaged with 6 batteries, extra bolts (usually not needed) and complete instructions. Laser US guarantees the batteries for 90 days, the beam for 180 days & the case for 5 years. See a video, FAQ and photos of the guides at the company’s website: www.laserusinc.com. Or contact: email: bob@laserusinc.com or phone anytime toll-free: 888-767-1262.

Reader Inquiry No. 122