

“Flusher” Removes Sand From Center Pivots

A simple screw-in device helps center pivot irrigators deal with a common problem – sand and sediment in the system from older wells. After a couple years of research and development, Justin Loeffler and Clint Vanderwey of L&V Innovations introduced the Pivot Flusher this past season.

Each time the pivot stops and starts to pressurize, the water pressure automatically activates a complete system flush, then closes when the irrigator begins to move. The Pivot Flusher takes about five minutes to screw in at the end of the overhang by the end gun, Loeffler says, noting that other flushers require electricity, or valves and pressure switches.

The Pivot Flusher’s only requirement is at least 10 lbs. of continuous pressure at the end of the pivot. The partners are working on a low-pressure version for systems with less pressure.

“We also market to guys with new wells as preventative maintenance,” Loeffler says, as the regular flushing will keep the system clean. Also, university researchers and other experts are discouraging the use of end guns – which help flush sand – because they don’t effectively irrigate. At \$350, the Pivot Flusher is an economical replacement option that fits on most systems. It’s expected to work for about 8 years, and L&V offer a money back guarantee if the Pivot Flusher doesn’t work on a system.

Having lived on farms, Loeffler notes that he and Vanderwey understand what producers need, and they design products that are practical and efficient to use. Five years ago, they introduced Pivot RX, a portable remote



Pivot Flusher mounts by center pivot’s end gun. Each time the pivot stops and starts to pressurize, the water pressure automatically activates a complete system flush, then closes when irrigator begins to move.



control unit to regulate the center pivot’s on/off switch. Instead of installing units at each irrigation system, the \$2,950 Pivot RX can be used for every system and doesn’t require a cellular plan.

Both products are available through their company’s website. Dealer inquiries are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, L&V Innovations, 26626 302nd St., Crookston, Neb. 69212 (ph 877 828-0069; www.lvinnovations.com).



Weedintech’s Foamstream uses a combination of hot water, steam and foam to kill weeds on contact. The foam acts as a thermal blanket, trapping heat on the weeds.

Hot Foam Used To Kill Weeds

Kill weeds anytime, anywhere and without hazardous, expensive herbicides. Weedintech’s Foamstream does it all with a combination of hot water, steam and foam. Created from plant sugars and oils, Foamstream kills weeds on contact.

“The foam acts as a thermal blanket, trapping heat on the weeds,” says Tom Hamilton, Weedintech. “It also acts as a wetting agent, enabling the heat to penetrate the weed’s waxy exterior walls. The density of the foam ensures there’s negligible drift so it’s very precise.”

The front-mount Foamstream boom carries 6 nozzles with variable configurations. A unit at the rear houses a pto-powered generator, 3 on-demand industrial heaters, and a 211-gal. tank with up to 3 power lances for spot weeding. A touch screen control panel mounts in the cab.

The British-built Foamstream is in its first year on the market, and the company is filling demand in the U.K and Europe before expanding to North America. An agricultural model is priced at about \$75,400 with a landscaper version priced at about \$62,585.

Benefits of the Foamstream system include no regulatory compliance, no required training, no hazardous chemicals and no weather dependence.

“It reduces your costs and is easy and effective,” says Hamilton. “The entire system attaches front and rear in 4 min.”

Check out the Foamstream video at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weedintech, 2 Fitzhardinge St., London W1H 6EE, U.K. (ph +44 (0) 203 219 3445; info@weedintech.com; www.weedintech.com).



Vertical Till Injector clamps to toolbar mounted behind manure wagon and uses 22-in. wave notched blades, which are followed by V-shaped injectors.

Manure Injector Built To Handle High Residue

Phil Reed wants manure from his 30,000 hogs to end up underground in his fields, not on the surface. He designed his Vertical Till Injector for liquid manure to make sure that happens, even in heavy residue, no-till applications. Unlike other manure injectors, it doesn’t plug up, no matter how much residue is in the field.

“Plugging up in high residue situations is the primary problem with most manure injection,” says Reed. “Draft is the second. Shank injectors take a lot of power. Not covering manure is third. You can lose roughly 50 percent of the nutrients if you don’t inject it or cover it.”

Reed’s injector eliminates plugging and requires half the draft power of a shank. He says the rolling component design is key to both features.

“Everything on it rotates,” says Reed. “There’s no drag, and it cuts through heavy cornstalks and CRP ground.”

The 22-in. wave notched blade slices through the thickest residue and lifts and spreads the soil apart. A V-shaped injector follows directly behind the blade. It disperses manure from the 3-in. dia., slanted hose into the soil 6 to 8 in. below the surface. Two rolling containment wheels at the back of the unit gather displaced soil and residue, filling and covering the injection slot. The units clamp to toolbars mounted behind manure wagons. Though priced individually, 4, 5, 6 and 8-row units are available.

“We retain pretty much 100 percent of the manure’s nutrient value,” says Reed. “That adds value to the product.”

Reed says the injectors have been used to apply up to 6,000 gal. per acre at 14 mph, and that was with 2 in. of frost. He says they’re capable of applying up to 15,000 gal. per acre at up to 16 mph, though he recommends 3

to 14 mph for most conditions. He adds that regardless of speed or conditions, the injector is built to last. It can even be used with drag hose systems.

“You can turn with them in the ground, unlike other drag hose tool bars,” says Reed. “We put some serious iron in these things. They’re built extremely heavy for commercial use. We build them with a farmer mentality, not as a manufacturer trying to see how much cheaper they can be built.”

Reed is proud of the 10,000-lb. rated C springs that serve as shock absorbers on the shank. This lets him transfer weight from the tank to the toolbar. Reed’s injectors are built to handle 2,500 lbs. down pressure if needed to cut through residue.

“We wanted it to handle commercial use, so when I developed it, I took it to an equipment dealer,” recalls Reed. “I asked him which of his custom manure applicator customers had the highest repair bills. We tested it on him, and it did great.”

The vertical till injector row units run \$1,400 each. Reed points out the price is actually less than some 15 to 20-year-old technology that’s still being sold. The Vertical Till Injector units are available through a growing list of dealers and direct from Reed. Alternative blades for specific soil and residue situations are also available.

“It’s high speed, high residue and low draft,” says Reed. “Customers tell me they can’t believe how much less fuel they use and how much more work gets done. It opens up the application window by at least 25 percent.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vertical Till Injector LLC, 2709 Airport Rd., Washington, Iowa 52353 (ph 319 653-8950; vtilc22@yahoo.com; www.vtilc.com).

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