

Irish Push-Off Trailer Built For Speed

A prototype “push-off” trailer built in Ireland is loaded with features not found on any other trailer on the market, according to the manufacturer, Stealth Engineering.

The Kompactor 40 travels at highway speeds, unloads quickly, and carries 60 percent more forage than similar size trailers. The push-off design is safer, more economical and more versatile than conventional hydraulic hoist “tipping” trailers. What’s more, the box can be quickly removed so the trailer frame can be used for more than one job.

“Half the cost of a trailer is below the body, so why have it sit unused most of the year?” asks John Kennedy, Stealth Engineering. “When silage harvest is over, replace the box with a flat bed, tanker or other body and keep using it.”

Kennedy understands the cost of single purpose equipment. An ag contractor, he does custom work throughout the summer, including grass silage harvest. “Most farmers have 3 or 4 silage trailers sitting around all winter as well as specialized trucks,” says Kennedy. “Why not have a multi-purpose trailer that can be used all year long?”

After developing the prototype, he put it to the test this past summer and is now fine-tuning the design before going into production.

“I overbuilt the prototype, and though

it was not heavy at about 13,000 lbs., the production models will be reduced by nearly 1,000 lbs.,” says Kennedy. “We are also replacing the 2-ft. mesh edge at the top of the box with solid sides for hauling grain and other non-forage materials.”

The secret to the quick unloading and the greater capacity is the push-off design. The push plate serves as compactor when the trailer is being loaded in the field.

Hydraulically-controlled, sliding bogie axles increase stability, turning radius and weight transfer. Normally the bogie axles are pulled forward for balanced load and faster response in turns. When more weight is needed on the tractor rear axle for increased traction, the bogie axle can be moved up to 2-ft. to the rear. As the load is pushed off, the bogies also slide to the rear, carrying the load as it moves.

Other features include free moving steering axles, load sensing air brakes, a hydraulic tailgate and weigh cells. The steering axle allows better trailing when traveling forward. When backing up, the axle hydraulically locks in non-steering mode. Another attractive safety feature is the routing of all hydraulic hoses and wiring through the drawbar.

Kennedy will be offering his trailer in 18, 20 and 22-ft. (body) lengths. The drawbar



Kompactor 40 “push-off” trailer travels at highway speeds and has a push plate that serves as a compactor when the trailer is being loaded in the field. The box can be quickly removed so the trailer frame can be used for more than one job.

adds 5 ft. to trailer length regardless of body size. Standard push-off bodies will be 8 ft. wide with 7 1/2-ft. sides. The heavy-duty truck axles are sized to carry wide tires, up to 25 in. wide for greater load capacity and a smoother ride. Combined with the lighter than conventional trailer weight, the wide tires should also reduce field compaction.

“Fully loaded, the Kompactor 40 should carry 27 to 28 tons,” says Kennedy. “It’s built for the Irish market with its smaller fields, grass silage and hills. However, with its truck axles for road speed transit and versatility,

we are getting a lot of interest outside the country.”

Prices on the new trailers will start at about \$54,000. Initially available in Ireland, Kennedy is open to export interest.

To see a video of the Kompactor 40 in action, go to www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stealth Engineering, Lissyleamy, Ballyphillip, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland (ph 011 353 86 246 3813; johnkennedy@stealth.com).

Grain Cart Kit Helps Fight Combine Fires

Reduce the risk of combine fires with a grain cart-mounted fire fighting kit from Enduraplas. Originally designed to slide into a pickup box, the skid plate unit is also ideal for mounting on grain carts. Brandt Agricultural Products has even designed a bracket on their grain carts for mounting an Enduraplas kit.

“Combine fires are even more of a concern with Tier 4 motors, which run hotter,” says Matthew Firth, Enduraplas. “We’ve sold quite a few firefighting kits due to that concern.”

Firth notes that demand for the grain cart-sized kits has been strongest in Canada. However, he adds that interest in mounting them on grain carts has picked up across the Midwest as well.

“Some mount them on the front hitch, but with the Brandt grain carts, the bracket is at the rear,” says Firth. “No matter where it’s

mounted, having it on the grain cart means it’s usually close to the combine.”

The fully independent unit has its own Honda GX160 motor and 1 1/2-in. high-pressure pump, 100 ft. of 3/4-in. hose, and an adjustable fire nozzle. It’s equipped with a 150-gal. tank. Camlock fittings on the pump allow quick conversion of the tank to a bottom fill kit for easy refill from any water source.

“Oily residue, like that from sunflowers, is easy to ignite, but a fire can happen with any type of crop residue,” says Firth. “Even soybeans and canola can be a problem.”

Enduraplas offers the same basic unit with other size tanks ranging from 100 to 400 gal. Prices for the units range from \$3,129 to \$4,277. When harvest is over, they can slide into the back of a pickup or even a utility vehicle.

“A \$4,000 firefighting kit may seem high,



Skid plate-mounted Enduraplas fire fighting kit is ideal for mounting on grain carts. Photo shows kit rear-mounted on a Brandt grain cart.

but compare it to a \$500,000 combine,” says Firth. “When you add the cost of missed days in the field from replacement or repair of a fire damaged combine and possibly a crop, it’s reasonable protection.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Enduraplas/Agrimaxx, 113 First St., Neche, N. Dak. 58265 (ph 701 352-6100; toll free 877 877-4370; sales@enduraplas.com; www.enduraplas.com).

Battery-Powered Portable Fan

Battery-powered fans from Beiler’s Pneumatics can be used almost anywhere, thanks to their light weight and small footprint.

The fans are available with both 5 and 7-in. fan blades. The smaller fan has a 4 by 6-in. base, is 13 in. high and weighs 1 lb., while the larger fan has a 4 by 7-in. base, is 15 in. high and weighs 2 lbs.

The battery-powered fans are equipped with long life motors. Auto shutoff kicks in when the battery charge reaches a low level. This protects both motor and battery. The company recommends DeWALT 18V nickel cadmium or lithium batteries as the power source to use.

The 5-in. fan draws only 0.075 amps on high speed and 0.03 amps on low speed. The 7-in. fan draws 0.4 amps on high speed and 0.1 amps on low speed.

On low speed, the 5-in. fan will run for 26 hours on a single charge, and on high speed, it will run 14 hours. The 7-in. fan will run up to 18 hours on high speed and up to 5 1/2 hours on low speed with a full charge.

Variable speed control lets the user select



Battery-powered fans from Beiler’s are available with both 5 and 7-in. fan blades.

the desired speed. The 5-in. fan offers 360° rotation, while the 7-in. fan offers an adjustable tilting head.

The BP8275A 5-in. fan is priced at \$129. The BP7577A 7-in. fan is priced at \$199. Batteries are not included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beiler’s Pneumatics LLC, 718 Vintage Rd., Christiana, Penn. 17509 (ph 610 593-7064; toll free 800 539-7064).

“Twister Picker” Makes Fruit Picking Easy

This new “Twister Fruit Picker™” makes picking fruit an easy and safe job, without damaging the fruit or tree. It’s designed to screw onto a threaded pole, so instead of standing on a ladder, you can stand safely on the ground.

Made by NorDot Industries of Fort Benton, Mont., the picker comes with a picking ring assembly that screws onto a standard threaded pole (not supplied). In normal position, the rings are held closed by the rope and are tensioned by a bungee cord.

To pick fruit you open the rings by lifting the rope. Then you straddle the fruit with the picking rings and slowly release the rope to close the picking rings around the fruit. Then you use both hands to rotate the pole, twisting the fruit until it’s free from the tree.

The Twister Fruit Picker fits any 7 to 12-ft. long extension pole. “The rope adjusts accordingly, depending on how far you extend the rope,” says Howard Hanford, general manager. “For taller trees you’ll need to use a longer pole.”

The Twister Fruit Picker™ is available on Amazon and sells for \$39.95 shipping included.



“Twister Fruit Picker” is designed to screw onto a standard threaded pole so you can stand safely on the ground.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, NorDot Industries, LLC, P.O. Box 1111, Fort Benton, Mont. 59442 (info@TwisterFruitPicker.com; www.TwisterFruitPicker.com).