

## Grain Farmer Markets Sample Bin

"People ask me all the time how I came up with the idea for the Sample Bin," says Canadian farmer and inventor Brian Krywko, "and I always tell them it was my son's fault. We asked him to put the sample pail in the shop and he set it right inside the door. Of course the next time I walked in it was dark and I knocked it over, so there went the sample. I needed something that would preserve the sample, so that's why I built this device."

Through trial and error, Krywko eventually came up with a functional and durable container to hold his samples. "The early versions were metal, but those evolved to plastic," says Krywko. "Eventually we settled on a tough virgin polymer plastic that we can rotomould right on the farm." Krywko even built his own rotomoulding machine to make the handy bin, which is durable and weatherproof. He and his wife and a part-time employee now build them on their farm.

The Sample Bin mounts easily to any surface such as a corrugated bin, a hopper leg or a wall. Mounting hardware is included. A weatherproof lid that slides open also locks tight to the body of each 7 1/2-gal. unit. The lid stores a dry-erase whiteboard with a pen



**Sample Bin is designed to mount on storage and handling facilities and has a weatherproof lid that slides open and also locks tight to the body.**

that allows a producer to record pertinent crop information such as variety, test weight and harvest date. Small samples can be dispensed from the bottom of the Sample Bin into bags or containers for grading and moisture testing.

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## Mini TMR Ideal For Older Barns

The Vertablend self-propelled mixer cart is sized right for delivering a mixed ration to livestock in older barns. The adjustable feed-out door delivers mixed feed to feeding aisles or below grade troughs. Equipped with the optional unloading auger, the cart can deliver feed into raised feed alleys or bunks as needed.

"The Model 4200 is only 3 ft. wide and fits through a standard barn door or down a narrow alley," says Peter Schmidt, Esolutions, LLC, U.S. distributor for Vertablend Mfg. "It works for small goat, sheep or cow dairies, as well as for mixing special rations for small groups of calves or cows at larger dairies."

The operator's station provides easy access to all controls, as well as a view of the scale readout. The electronic scale with readout makes adding ration ingredients easy and accurate. It makes it equally easy to accurately deliver rations by weight to tiestall feeding stations.

The stainless steel bins are oval at the top and rounded at the bottom to ensure feed is constantly returned to the center auger for mixing. When equipped with up to 11 knives on the vertical auger, the carts can grind up

hay and haylage.

"We are still experimenting some with adding hay, but depending on the kind and amount, the knives will chop it up," says Schmidt. "We've added up to 30 lbs. of dry hay and up to 100 lbs. of haylage in the 42 cu. ft. model."

The 69-in. high mixing carts are equipped with Honda engines. Bin sizes include the 42 cu. ft. Model 4200, 55 cu. ft. Model 5500, and 95 cu. ft. Model 9500. All are equipped with hydraulic drives for transit and mixing.

"The drive wheels are under the bins to take full advantage of the weight for traction," says Schmidt. "The tires have tractor wheel-type lugs and can handle even a graveled incline."

Schmidt says the mixing carts also work well for mixing up mulch for greenhouse and landscape use. The self-propelled mixers start at \$10,500. The company also makes a stationary mixer, as well as two models of trailer mixers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Esolutions, LLC, 4645 Crooked Run, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 (ph 330 308-0230; peter4schmidt@gmail.com);

## Baler's Mechanical Drive Works Faster Than Hydraulics

Melvin Yoder's all mechanical wood shavings baler works faster than hydraulic balers. More bales per hour mean more money in the bank with less labor.

"A customer asked me to design a baler that didn't use any hydraulics," recalls Yoder, Flack Hill Machine. "I designed a rack and pinion to run the plunger back and forth. The results were surprising. Faster plunger travel means increased bales per hour."

Yoder found one man with his design could make 25 bales per hour and two men could produce 40 bales per hour. The baler features a top-mounted feed hopper. It has a heavy-duty, 10-in. channel iron frame, steel wheels and a tongue jack.

The rack-and-pinion design is belt and #80 roller chain driven. A jackshaft runs continuously. Forward and reverse belt tensioners are linked to the control lever to give the operator full control of the plunger with one hand.

"The door at the end of the chute is opened, and a plastic bag slips over the chute," explains Yoder. "Once the door is closed, the



**All mechanical wood shavings baler works faster than hydraulic balers. It uses a rack and pinion to run the plunger back and forth.**

plunger is operated until the chute is full. The door is then opened, and the plunger pushes the bale in its bag out of the chute."

Yoder makes the balers to order. They are available in 10 by 14-in. or 12 by 16-in. bale sizes. Prices range from \$8,900 to \$10,500, depending on the size of the baler and engine.

"Bales of wood shavings retail for \$6 to \$7 each," explains Yoder. "They are mostly used for bedding."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Flack Hill Machine Ltd., 7799 Flack Rd., Howard, Ohio 43028.



**Vertablend self-propelled mixer cart is small enough to deliver mixed rations to livestock in older tiestall barns.**

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## "No Pump" Hand Sprayer

Pumping up a pressurized hand sprayer can be a tiresome job. Also, sooner or later the pumps on such sprayers will fail. Dwayne Slate of Shawnee, Okla., eliminates both problems by adding an automotive valve stem to his tanks.

"It lets me use an ordinary air compressor to pressurize the tank so no hand pumping is needed," says Slate.

He drills a 1/2-in. dia. hole on the side of the tank near the top, then ties a string to a valve stem and pulls it out through the hole. Then he fills the sprayer about half full of liquid, replaces the hand pump, and uses a compressor to add 25 to 30 psi of pressure.

"I started using this idea about 5 years ago and now many of my neighbors do the same thing," says Slate. "I usually put grease around the valve stem so that it slides through the hole easier."

"If the pump doesn't work any more, I remove the valve from the bottom of the pump and seal it with an ample amount of high temperature RTV sealant. Then I let it cure for 4 to 6 hours and reinstall the pump."



**Add-on automotive valve stem lets Dwayne Slate use an ordinary air compressor to pressurize his hand sprayer tank.**

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