

# Tribine Harvester Goes Into Production

After more than 15 years of inching forward in small steps, Tribine Harvester LLC is moving into production with its revolutionary articulated combine. The Newton, Kansas city council approved the plant facility for Tribine in the summer of 2015. The location will house engineering, administration, assembly, testing and shipping. The company says assembly will begin in 2016 and the first production units should be working in wheat harvest by June, 2016.

Indiana farmer Ben Dillon designed the machine 15 years ago and worked tirelessly to bring it to production. The front of the machine is an S77 Agco Gleaner combine that connects by a center pivot hitch to a 1,000 bu. grain cart. Each unit has 2 wheels with huge 48 by 72 in. tires. Hydraulic pumps provide full time 4-WD to automatic load sharing symmetrical axles and the unloading auger. The machine has power compound steering articulation. All 4 axles pivot to produce crab

steering for easy maneuvering.

The Tribine is powered by a 370 hp engine that's situated on the top center of the harvester, where the grain tank would normally be located. Grain moves from the threshing unit to the trailing grain tank through a 12 in. auger. Chaff and straw blows out the rear of the harvester in front of the grain cart. The 22 in. dia. unloading auger is 26 ft. long to easily reach waiting trucks and unload 500 bu. in about 2 min.

On-board cameras allow the operator to look inside the grain tank, at the end of the unloading auger, and at the rear left of the machine for easy maneuvering. Special distance sensors allow the operator to position the unloading auger for dumping into carts, trucks or wagons.

Tribine says the machine will be a solid investment for large farmers because it lowers capital cost by combining equipment, saving fuel and reducing labor. Its large tires provide



Revolutionary articulated Tribine combine recently went into production. It has a trailing grain tank fed by a 12-in. auger. Chaff and straw blows out in front of tank.

a huge footprint to reduce field compaction compared to traditional harvesting methods. Front and back wheels track together to allow farmers to position fields on tramlines to reduce overall compaction.

The Tribine is articulated and turns equally well in either direction. It measures about

14 ft. wide and just over 34 ft. long with an 8-row corn head in place. Pricing will be determined in 2016.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tribine, 212 N Main Street, Newton, Kan., 67114 (ph 316 282-8011; www.tribine.com).

## Plastic Irrigation Valve Covers Stopped Theft Problem

Mark Lucas grows 80 acres of Thompson seedless grapes using flood irrigation near Fresno, Calif. Last spring he faced an expensive problem.

"I was checking my irrigation system over to get ready for the upcoming season when I noticed that all the brass covers on my orchard valves had been stolen, most likely during the winter. Orchard valves are used at the end of each row and have large covers that, when loosened, lift up and allow the water to escape from the pipe below and move down the rows.

"The covers are made of brass, and thieves steal them for their resale value. The theft of brass valve covers has become a big problem on farms in this area during the last few years."

Lucas has 400 rows of grapes on his farm, so he needed 400 valve covers to get his irrigation system working again.

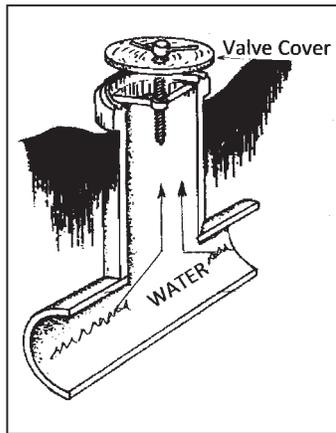
"I called the irrigation valve manufacturers and they quoted \$36 apiece for the valve covers, plus tax. That meant replacements would have cost me close to \$16,000, with no guarantee the theft wouldn't happen again. I didn't think I could sleep at night if I paid that much money for covers that could be stolen at any time."

He went to a plastic injection manufacturing company, and they suggested using fiberglass-reinforced plastic valve covers for durability and strength.

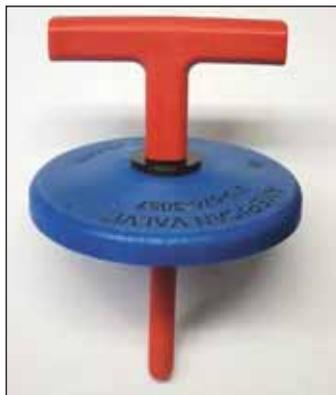
"After a few days of thinking it over, I decided to manufacture my own plastic covers. They would have no resale value to the thieves, and they would cost a lot less than ones made from brass," he says.

He had molds made from an original brass valve cover. "I thought I would make 1,000 valves and sell the extra ones to cover the cost of the molds. After all the components arrived, my kids and I assembled them in my garage. I contacted a few local farmers and sold the extra covers in less than 2 months. People kept contacting me to supply them with more of the covers so I started manufacturing the two most popular sizes - 3 1/2 and 4-in. dia. - and sold them through a company that I formed, called AVALCO."

Lucas says the fiberglass-reinforced plastic valve covers are designed to replace Clover, Sunshine, and Red Top-style orchard flood irrigation valve covers. They fit directly



New irrigation valve cover is made from plastic instead of brass so it has no resale value to thieves.



Mark Lucas sells the 3 1/2 and 4-in. dia. valves through a company he formed, called AVALCO.

with no modifications onto orchard frames manufactured by Fresno Valve and Waterman Industries.

The 3 1/2-in. valve covers sell for \$13 apiece plus S&H; 4-in. covers for \$14 apiece plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Lucas, AVALCO, 2029 Verdugo Blvd., No. 710, Montrose, Calif. 91020 (ph 310 676-3057; Avalco4@aol.com; www.farmvalves.com).

## Great Gift Ideas For Christmas

Buying gifts for farmers and ranchers is not easy. But we've got some great ideas!



**Gift Subscriptions:** Do your friends a favor! You can give the "First Gift" to yourself as a one-year extension of your own FARM SHOW subscription, entitling you to give reduced rate gift subscriptions to friends, relatives, business associates, students, or others. Each recipient gets a free copy of our new 128 page book "Bring Old Farm Equipment Back To Life!"



**FARM SHOW On DVD-Rom:** Every issue of FARM SHOW ever published (through this issue - Vol. 39, No. 6) appears on this "searchable" DVD-Rom, which works on any personal computer. Pages appear in their original format so you page through all back issues at your leisure.

## 1,446 Pages Of Great Ideas!

Even if you're a long-time subscriber to FARM SHOW and have saved every issue, you'll want to have these three books in your FARM SHOW library. Each 482-page book contains approximately 1,200 of the best stories from past issues of FARM SHOW. Volume I contains the best "made it myself" stories from the years 2000 to 2004. Volume II contains the best stories from 2005 to 2009. And Volume III covers the years from 2010 to 2014.



You get the full original story on each idea, complete with how-to details and photos, plus the inventor's name, address and phone number.



**More FARM SHOW Books:** These collections of information on specific topics will provide hours of great reading, and might save you money or give you an idea for a new on-farm enterprise. Topics include, "Money-Making Ideas To Boost Farm Income" (Vol. I, II & III), "I Made My Own Tractor", "Energy Saving Ideas", "Combines & Schoolbuses", "Great Shop Ideas", "Look What They're Doing With Garden Tractors" and "Just For Kicks".

**Back Issues:** Catch up on what you've missed! We still have approximately 190 back issues available from the past 39 years of FARM SHOW. You can buy the whole set or just a year or two of individual issues.

To order, go to [www.FARMSHOW.com](http://www.FARMSHOW.com), or use the Order Form enclosed in this issue.

You can also call us at 1-800-834-9665.

VISA, Mastercard, Discover, Paypal & Amazon accepted.