

## Rare Cattle Breed Goes To College

Dan Hays recently sent his rare herd of Hays Converter cattle off to the University of Alberta. They were donated to the university for genetic testing and research.

"It seemed like a good idea, given the herd's history and the research work that has already been done," says Hays, son of Harry Hays, who developed the breed in the 1950's.

Previous research has already analyzed growth rates, carcass traits and management of genetic diversity and inbreeding.

In 1975, the Hays Converter was recognized as the first Canadian pure breed. The elder Hays crossed Hereford, Holstein and Brown Swiss to create a breed with fast growth and the ability to handle severe winters. Other goals were sound feet, easy calving, good milk production and fertility. While several large commercial herds and a number of

smaller herds continue with the breed, total numbers are limited.

Hays believes the influx of European breeds like Simmental and Charolais in the 1970's was one reason the breed didn't gain greater popularity. Ironically, the senior Hays was very involved in importing and promoting those other breeds as well.

"He undercut a big marketing opportunity by bringing in those breeds," says his son.

The death of Harry Hays in 1982 also affected herd promotion. "He was a marketer, and if he had had a longer run, I think the breed would have been more successful in terms of numbers," he says.

Hays sold his home ranch in 2000 to concentrate on politics and his law practice. However, he retained ownership of the herd at several custom cattle operations. He is



**Don Hays recently donated his rare herd of Hays Converter cattle to the University of Alberta for genetic testing and research. His father originally developed the breed by crossing Hereford, Holstein and Brown Swiss animals.**

confident the herd still has much to contribute to Canadian beef production.

"The University is getting into a full genetics-based program that will benefit the industry by making these genetics available," he says. "We've been able to invest in research to create an index based system to quantify higher performing individuals

within the larger population. Improving efficiency is the focus of agriculture and most of the time is very rewarding."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Canadian Hays Converter Association, 201, 1600 - 15 Ave. SW, Calgary, Alta. Canada T3C 0Y2 (ph 403 245-6923; haysconverter@shaw.ca; www.haysconverter.com).

## Tined Seeder Ideal For Revitalizing Pastures

With more interest in grass-fed livestock and range management these days, farmers are looking at specialized equipment for seeding, inter-seeding and over-seeding. Guy Machinery, the U.S. distributor of Einböck equipment, says a new 20-ft. Einböck Pneumaticstar is ideal for sowing clover or grass into grain, interseeding or overseeding in a pasture. Working pasture with the spring tines loosens the soil and seed is evenly deposited across the 20-ft. working width via pneumatic tubes.

The Pneumaticstar has a 300-litre capacity seed tank with a stirring shaft that prevents de-mixing and bridging during field travel. A metal seed roller distributes the seed into 8 outlets where it's carried pneumatically down pvc hoses mounted to the machine

frame. Each outlet has a deflector plate that consistently distributes seed even in windy conditions.

Einböck says the 8 mm finger-size tines on the Pneumaticstar can be adjusted for aggressiveness with a central lever. Tines are stabilized with a poly holder to increase the vibration effect. Spring coils on the tines are located below the tine holders.

For operation in rough grassland conditions, spring-loaded front leveling plates and 10 mm tines can be used. The 20-ft. seeder sells for \$19,775.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Guy Machinery, 14213 Washington Street, Woodstock, Ill. 60098 (ph 815 338-0600; www.tinedweeder.com).



**Einböck tined seeder loosens the soil and evenly deposits seed across its 20-ft. width using pneumatic tubes.**

Randy Wood custom builds dump pits that range in size from 500 to 2,000 bu. Many of the pits are designed to complement used bins that his company installs on farms.



## Grain Bin Reseller Also Custom Builds Dump Pits

There's an old saying that one thing leads to another, and that certainly applies to Michigan entrepreneur Randy Wood.

He started and grew a successful business that buys, sells, moves and reconstructs used grain bins. They've repurposed bins from 5,000 up to 1,000,000 bu. capacity not just in their home state of Michigan, but also around the country. Wood maintains a crew that knows their trade well.

After installing used bins for several farmers, Wood was asked if his crew could put in dump pits and grain legs. It didn't take Wood long to realize there was a market for those services, so he enlisted the services of an engineer to design the dump pits and started taking orders. Now the company builds pits that range in size from 500 to 2,000 bushels. Wood says many of the pits are designed to complement used bins that his company has installed or will soon install on farms. They've also done pits for commercial operations.

DumpPits.com custom-designs and builds

every pit it installs. They use high strength steel for the walls and I-beams to support the deck. Their big 1,000 and 2,000 bu. pits have decks rated for 300,000 lbs., 3 times the strength needed for a fully-loaded semi truck. Pits can be designed and built to any dimension, ranging from 6 ft. long up to full semi truck length. Discharge augers range in size from 8 to 12 in.

Wood says customers enjoy working with his company because he runs an honest business with fair pricing, superior products and exceptional service. To complement the pit building service, his company also builds overhead structures for loading out trucks. The company offers complete turn-key services from site preparation, leveling, hole excavation, pit installation and re-grading to a smooth surface. Pricing depends on specifications needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Wood, 2314 Nolen Drive, Flint, Mich. 48504 (ph 810 422-7692; www.dumppits.com or www.woodysusedgrainbins.com).

## Battery-Powered Backpack Sprayer

"It has more features than any other backpack sprayer on the market, yet it's lightweight and affordably priced," says Greg Imus about his company's new Jacto PJB-16 backpack sprayer.

The new backpack sprayer is powered by a removable lithium ion battery located inside a hard plastic compartment under the tank, and is available in 4 and 5-gal. capacities. A control panel located on one side of the battery compartment displays the battery charge level, pressure and alerts. Audible-visible warning indicators are built in to alert you in case of any issues with the sprayer's pump, electric motor or wiring and also to warn you if the battery is close to losing power.

The sprayer features 5 pressure settings, hydraulic agitation, built-in controller diagnostics, a walking pace indicator, and comes equipped with soft, padded shoulder straps, a heavy-duty trigger valve, and a stainless steel wand with 4 nozzle attachments.

"The lithium ion battery lasts much longer than a conventional nickel cadmium battery and allows you to spray all day, with full power right up until the battery dies," says Imus. "The battery will last 4 to 8 hrs. depending on the use, and you'll hear an audible warning a few minutes before the battery wears out. It takes about 4 hrs. to recharge. Total hours of operation are recorded on the control panel so that service intervals can be determined easily."

He says customers really like the on-demand hydraulic agitator, which uses a venturi to produce a strong jet of water to stir things up instead of just recirculating the material. "It keeps the contents of the sprayer



**Sprayer's lithium ion battery is located under the tank.**

properly mixed, including wettable powders, so that they don't clog the filter," says Imus. The sprayer also comes with an adjustable 4-speed walking pace indicator with audible signal to help the operator maintain a constant walking speed. "The pace indicator makes sure that the operator walks at a prescribed pace in order to provide even coverage," notes Imus.

The Jacto PJB-16 backpack sprayer retails for \$399.99.

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