

Small Scale Combines Are Hard To Find

Small acre farmers have few choices when it comes to combines, notes Eugene Canales, Ferrari Tractors. Canales imports smaller scale equipment that's popular in parts of Europe and Asia. He has long provided FARM SHOW with information on unique pieces of equipment (Vol. 24, No. 3) including small combines. Recently he gave us an update on harvesting equipment.

"The Mitsubishi VM7 walk-behind combine has been discontinued," says Canales. "A riding version is available from Mitsubishi, but it costs \$55,000, nearly twice the price of the walk-behind. The Cicoria ATX pull-behind combine is the same price."

Canales adds that 2 smaller combines from Mitsubishi are also available. The V211C at \$36,000, and the V214C is priced at \$43,600. All 3 Mitsubishi are head threshers; that is, they harvest the heads of the grain, leaving the straw standing.

Explaining that such prices tend to be too high for most of his customers, Canales recommends stationary threshers as a better option.

Cicoria makes a small plot thresher with 6

sieves priced at \$13,704, FOB San Francisco. It is suitable for a wide variety of grains, even Emmer wheat with its very tight hull. It is equally suited to a range of legumes and even vegetables. It can also be used to separate leaves from aromatic and medicinal plants, such as thyme, oregano, nettle and sage. The design leaves no residue behind, which makes switching crops as simple as swapping out sieves. The variable speed drive lets the operator adjust drum speed to the crop being threshed.

He has also sold several Trexia threshers made by Colombini of Italy. The company has built threshers since 1875. The simple design is meant for grains of all kinds, but it can also be equipped to thresh soybeans and other small beans. Prices are available upon request.

Given the low price of grain and the high price of equipment, Canales recommends shared ownership when possible.

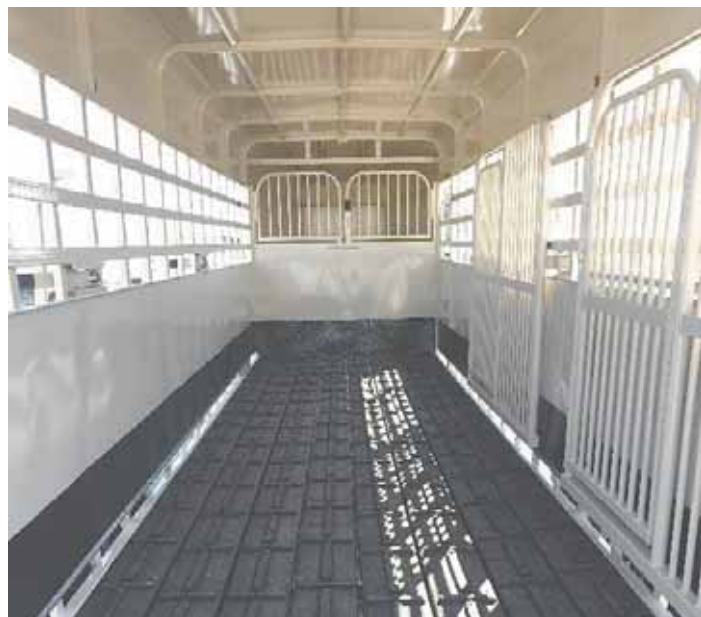
"I believe that is the best way to reduce the costs of new machines," he says. "New machines are not going to come down in price, nor is grain likely to go up much in



Imported by Eugene Canales, this Cicoria stationary small plot thresher comes with 6 different sieves. Works great for grains, as well as legumes and even vegetables.

value." Due to medical reasons, Canales requests contact be made via posted mail or email. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ferrari

Tractors CIE, P.O. Box 1045, Gridley, Calif. 95948; sales@ferrari-tractors.com; www.ferrari-tractors.com).



High friction rubber flooring comes in ready-to-install boards that measure 8 in. wide by 2 in. deep. Boards can be cut to any length.

"Rubber Lumber" Flooring For Livestock Trailers

High friction rubber flooring can keep your livestock standing and also extend the life of your trailer, says Shelby Trailer Service, a small family owned and operated trailer flooring manufacturing company located in Comanche, Okla. All their products are made entirely from recycled tire rubber and plastic.

The flooring comes in ready-to-install boards that measure 8 in. wide by 2 in. deep and can be cut to any length.

"Our rubber flooring is designed to replace the existing wood flooring on trailers. We sell to trailer manufacturers, trailer dealers, and ranchers and farmers. The end users can easily install the flooring themselves," says general manager J'Lynn Olah. "The rubber flooring cushions the ride and provides the animals with stable footing. It's a great alternative to wood because it won't crack or rot and provides good traction."

Their original Cross Lug board is designed to keep livestock standing while on the move. Introduced in the late 1990's, it has been improved by providing spacing between the cross lugs for easier cleanout.

The company recently introduced a smooth, 1 1/2-in. thick Tongue and Groove board made with "traction surface" and a 1 3/4-in. thick plank board. Both boards are designed for horse trailers, equipment trailers, flatbeds or truck beds.

"The plank board works great on heavy equipment trailers used to haul backhoes and tracked equipment," says Olah.

Besides rubber flooring, the company also offers a 3-in. thick solid rubber rear bumper for trailers. "If you back up with a trailer and accidentally hit a dock, our solid rubber bumper won't crack like hollow bumpers on the market," says Olah.

Shelby rubber lumber comes with a 20-year warranty. The price to re-floor a trailer starts at \$500 and goes up depending on the size of your trailer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, J'Lynn Olah, Shelby Trailer Service, LLC, 282066 E. 1790 Rd., P.O. Box 428, Comanche, Okla. 73529 (ph 877 255-2922 or 580 252-2922; jlynn@shelbytrailer.com).

Simple Tool Pays Off Daily

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

"My hook makes getting things out from underneath my pickup topper easy. It has a 44-in. long wooden handle with a 4-in. plastic-covered hook at the end.

"My wife and I use it for everything from pushing garbage cans, boxes, paint cans and more to the front of the topper and then pulling them back out again. When we moved to our new house, we stacked cardboard banker boxes 3 high and 3 across, pushing each stack forward with the tool. When it was time to pull them back out, the hook did the trick.

"It's just a simple screw-in hook like you might use to hang a hose in the shop. I drilled a pilot hole in the end of an old spade handle and screwed in the hook.

"It took about 2 min. to do, but it has saved me climbing under that topper 1,000 times to retrieve things large and small. I never take the truck anywhere without it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Ruen, 33750 Forster Rd., La Crescent, Minn. 55947 (ph 507 895-2229; farmshowjim@gmail.com).



Ruen drilled a hole in the end of an old spade handle and screwed a plastic-covered hook into it.

Monitor Checks Stock Tanks Via Cellphone

This new wireless, solar-powered water monitor makes it easier to check drinking water levels in livestock tanks.

The AguaCheck Tank Sensor allows you to monitor water tanks via cellphone text messages. The system comes with a sensor in a durable, rainproof enclosure that can measure up to 15 ft. of water and has a resolution of about 2 in. The sensor delivers automatic daily level reports. It will send a warning if the tank begins losing water rapidly because of a leak, or if the water level falls below an acceptable level.

The AguaCheck system isn't cheap. It currently sells for \$500. A \$20 per month cellular plan is required.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RanchCheck, P.O. Box 1743, Marfa, Texas 79843 (ph 469 480-0146; www.ranchcheck.com).



Solar-powered monitor lets you use your cellphone to check drinking water levels in livestock tanks.