

Flail Chopper Processes Beets For Cow Feed

"I had tried feeding processed sugar beets from North Dakota to my milk cows with excellent results, so when I found a source for beets locally, I needed to chop them up," says Wisconsin dairyman Tom Greshner.

"I found an old flail chopper sitting in the weeds at a neighbors, so a friend and I spent a couple hours welding patches on a few holes and adding a silo filling hood on the back. It works fine, probably better than a slinger manure spreader that would've cost \$2,000 or more."

To use the machine Greshner makes a 3-ft. wide windrow of beets about 12 in. deep on a cement pad. He drives over them with the flail running and says the chopped beets come flying out the spout in a nice even windrow.

"The flail doesn't produce the same consistency as the processed beets I bought from North Dakota, but the cows still chew them up real well," Greshner says. He scoops them up with his skid steer, mixes in other ingredients recommended by his nutritionist, and feeds his cows twice a day. Each cow gets about 20 lbs. of beets a day.

"When I feed beets I get 8 to 10 lbs. more milk a day per cow, and the butterfat test jumps from 4.6 to about 5.3. I ordered more this year from a fellow who grows them on his potato farm and has the equipment to dig them. I pay about the same as I would to buy shelled corn and get better production, so I think it's worthwhile."

Greshner says he knows the cows really

like the feed because as soon as he starts the tractor and the flail, they start running to the pad like kids getting free candy.

"I've got \$200 and a few hours work invested in the chopper, so I think it's definitely paid for itself," says Greshner. "I think a person could also mount a flail on the front of a skid steer and it would also work."

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Silo-filling spout on back of flail chopper causes chopped beets to fly out in a windrow, where they're scooped up with a skid loader.



Photo courtesy Jenessa Friedhof

"Industrial-Sized" Walnut Cracker

"Since you published the story about my homemade nut cracking machine (Vol. 32, No. 6) I've built a couple of much larger machines. If you need to crack a large quantity of nuts fast, these industrial beasts will do the job for you," says Mike Andreasen, Nampa, Idaho.

His patented Get Crackin' nut cracker, called the Patriot 600, weighs about 450 lbs. Constructed from solid steel, with a hard-faced cracking chamber, it can process 600 to 1,300 lbs. of nuts per hour. A companion model called the Adjustable Patriot is also available.

"These massive nut crackers work great for anyone who handles larger volumes of nuts including farms, fruitstands, and commercial processing plants," says Andreasen. "They produce well more than 800 to 1,000 inch pounds of torque."

A patented cone-shaped cracking chamber receives the whole nuts through the hopper. As the chamber spins, the nut drops down into a wedge-shaped compartment, finds its optimum place, and rolls with evenly placed

pressure until the shell is cracked. "Both the shell and meat then fall down a steep, angled discharge chute and onto the customer's separating conveyors or table, leaving you with halves and quarter pieced meats," says Andreasen.

He says the transmission used to drive the big machine is a right angle worm gear-driven speed reducer that's coupled to a fully enclosed, AC thermal protected, 1 to 2 hp. electric motor. The machine is equipped with a 220-volt, single phase, 50-amp weld plug that plugs into any welding outlet or 30-amp dryer outlet. An on/off toggle switch starts and stops the unit.

"The Patriot 600 does not need to be adjusted to fit different sized nuts. It receives all sizes, large and small, and all varieties of nuts, from the softer shelled varieties of English walnuts, hazel nuts, and pecans, to the hard shelled varieties of native black walnuts, cultivar black walnuts, hickories, macadamias of Hawaii, and heartnuts of Canada," says Andreasen. "However, if your operation requires custom sizing



"If you need to crack a large quantity of nuts fast, these industrial beasts will do the job for you," says Mike Andreasen.

nuts for a specialized need, check out the Adjustable Patriot model. It can be set up with a discharge opening anywhere from 1/8 to 1 1/4 in."

You can check out a video of the nut sheller in action at FARMSHOW.com.

The Patriot sells for \$6,200 and the Adjustable Patriot for \$8,500.

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2 1/2-Gal. Sprayer Operates On Cordless Tool Batteries

This new 2 1/2-gal. handheld sprayer is designed to operate on the same kind of lithium ion batteries you use with cordless tools. It eliminates the need to pump the sprayer by hand.

The sprayer, made by Beiler's Pneumatics, operates on 20-volt DeWalt and 18-volt Makita and Milwaukee batteries (not included). It comes with a pump operated by a 12-volt motor and a battery adapter mounting bracket. The pump and motor are strapped on near the top of the tank, while the battery adapter mounting bracket is strapped on below it.

The operator slides the battery onto the adapter and uses a rocker switch to activate the pump. The sprayer wand comes with 2 different nozzle attachments.

"It's built with quality components and uses standard cordless tool batteries that have a long running time," says Elam Beiler. "It can be used to do many jobs including foliar feeding, spraying flowers and vegetables, disinfecting dog kennels and chicken houses, applying plant fertilizers and insecticides, and more."

The company also offers a 4-gal. backpack sprayer that operates on the same cordless tool batteries.

The 2 1/2-gal. handheld sprayer sells for \$235 plus S&H. The 4-gal. backpack sprayer sells for \$315 plus S&H.



This 2 1/2-gal. cordless handheld sprayer operates on cordless tool batteries, eliminating the need to pump sprayer by hand.



A 4-gal. backpack sprayer operates on the same batteries.

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Handy chore cart was made by fitting a big-wheeled baby stroller with a plastic cargo box.

Chore Cart Made From Big-Wheeled Stroller

"We operate a small boarding facility in upstate New York and I created this handy utility cart for use in the summer when horses are out on pasture," says William Neilson, Stillwater, New York.

"I made it from a baby stroller with big wheels that's designed for jogging but rolls great on rough ground. It's fitted with a plastic cargo box that contains fly sprays, grooming supplies, meds, extra fly masks, and so on. A 5-gal. pail is attached to the

top of the lid that goes on the box. It carries a number of color-coded supplements in smaller pails.

"The girls who do much of the work in the summer find this cart is a lifesaver when doing daily chores."

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