

Big Drum Composter Breaks Down Carcasses Fast

The Novi-Comp composter turns dead hogs and chickens into safe and sanitary compost in 7 to 10 days. The modular system sets up quickly and operates smoothly on its own.

"We have a 3 by 10-ft. unit, which is ideal for smaller poultry producers," says Shawn Compton, Novid. "Our largest is a 5 by 60-ft. unit for large poultry and hog producers."

Both units are 2 mos. out in production, which is a sign of growing demand. The natural bacterial process breaks down carbon from wood shavings and nitrogen from the carcasses. Enclosed composting maintains biosecurity during the composting process.

The Novi-Comp modules are fabricated from stainless steel for both the internal chamber and the exterior shell with 2 in. of polyurethane foam in between. The insulation holds in heat from the composting process to maintain temperatures of 130 to 150 degrees F.

The modular design allows operators to add to the composter as their operation grows.

The simple design eliminates belts, chains and most monitoring and maintenance. Even fully loaded, the 1/2 hp. Baldur motor has no problem turning the large drive sprocket that encircles the unit. Two gearboxes reduce revolutions by 2,600:1 to rotate the Novi-Comp in 15 to 20-min. cycles, 6 to 12 times



A 1/2 hp. electric motor rotates the big composter in 15 to 20-min. cycles 6 to 12 times a day, turning carcasses into compost in 7 to 10 days.

a day. "The microbes do all the work," says Compton. "The operator simply loads the hatch with a 1:1 mix of carbon material and material to be composted."

Although the company has focused on poultry and swine producers needs, Compton says the composters are being used for a variety of organic waste, from universities to

a farmer's market to a complex of restaurants in Winnipeg, Man.

Prices range from \$15,000 for the 3 by 10-ft. unit to \$100,000 for the 5 by 60-ft. system. An optional bone screener separates out bones that haven't fully composted.

"Stainless steel isn't cheap, but it will last," says Compton. "We are the only in-vessel composter manufacturer with a 10-

year warranty against corrosion of the internal drum."

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"Everything" toolbar is fitted with receiver hitches, straight hitches, ball hitches, pintle and clevis hitches, chain hooks, and push bars.

Multi-Hitch Toolbar Also Made To Push

There is very little Dale McLaen can't push, pull or tow with his multi-hitch skid steer toolbar. Three receiver hitches accept a variety of tools, most of which can be stored in place on the quick-tach plate until needed.

"The self-contained hitch allows us to hook up to and move any trailer or implement, regardless of the type of hitch, pole or tongue on it," says McLaen. "If we need to push something, we've got 3 push bumpers that can be mounted as needed. We've lifted and moved implements with tongue weights of 7,000 lbs. using this hitch."

The toolbar itself is 4 by 4-in. square, 1/4-in. steel tubing. It is attached to a 20 by 48-in., 5/16-in. thick steel plate with the 2 by 2-in., 1/4-in. thick steel receiver tubes. They are cut into and welded into the toolbar for strength. Gusset plates between each receiver tube and the toolbar add even more strength.

The toolbar holds an array of hitching devices. They include receiver-hitch ready straight hitches, various size ball hitches, pintle and clevis hitches, chain hooks, holders for large and small hitch pins, and push bars.

The push or bumper bars are made from 4-in. channel iron that hold pieces of oak recycled from a pallet. The oak was cut down and bolted to the back of the channel iron, which in turn had 2 by 2-in. tubing butt-welded to it.

"We added rubber facing to the front and sides of the push bars, using pieces of a conveyor belt recycled from a construction company replacing gravel conveyors," says



Photo shows the skid steer-mounted toolbar with all attachments removed.

McLaen.

McLaen made 3 of them. He can use all 3 at once, or just use 2 when pushing a car to avoid hitting the license plate. If there is a mounted tire or other situation where he can't use the side ones, he can just use one bumper in the center receiver hitch.

"We use the hitch bar fully assembled about 90 percent of the time," says McLaen. "I built it for an older 23 hp. Bobcat, but it is strong enough that we now use it on a 90 hp. T750 Bobcat. We used it on a 16-row corn planter, and the hitch weight tipped the 10,000-lb. skid steer off its rear wheels, but it didn't hurt the toolbar."

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Boom lift fits into 1 of 3 receiver hitches on rear-mounted toolbar. McMahon also uses receiver tubes in his shop by attaching them to metal poles.



Nifty Receiver Hitch Supports Crane, Other Tools

Robert McMahon maximized the versatility of his small lift crane with a multi-tube receiver hitch extension. The crane can be mounted to a receiver tube directly behind his truck bed or at 45-degree angles to either side. Outrigger jacks on the crane make it easy to level and stabilize it when lifting.

"Mounting a receiver hitch shank to the base of the crane makes it easy to use any place I need to load heavy objects," says McMahon. "When not needed on the truck, I mount the crane to a receiver hitch on a box in my shop yard and use it as a stationary crane."

A hobbyist blacksmith, McMahon gets lots of use from the receiver hitch crane and the 3-way receiver hitch. He can pull into a blacksmithing event and mount multiple ironworking tools to his truck hitch at the same time.

The multiple point receiver hitch extension actually contains 5 receiving tubes. One in the center attaches to McMahon's truck's receiver hitch with a connecting shank. A second one extends to the rear opposite the first. In addition, each of the angled receiving

tubes is welded over the top of receiver tubes that are perpendicular to either side of the center tubes.

"I can set it up as a stand-alone work area apart from my truck, and it will support 5 different tools," says McMahon.

McMahon gives the crane and other tools more stability by welding 3/4-in. nuts over holes drilled in the tubes. "I can jam a 2 by 2-in. shank with a bolt screwed through the nut, to remove any wiggle or play," he explains.

McMahon uses receiver hitch tubes in his shop as well. Mounted to building support posts, the receiver tubes are handy places to store and use the same tools he takes to events.

"I don't have floor space in my shop to dedicate to benders, ring rollers or vises," says McMahon. "Plus, some jobs are too big for the shop. The hitch unit gives me more flexibility."

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