



An old forage wagon spreads an even swath of straw on Dan Brouwer's strawberries. Wagon's extended discharge chute is the same width as a row of strawberries.

Silage Wagon Covers Strawberries

"My 40-year-old Gehl forage wagon really simplifies one of the most time-consuming jobs we have," says Minnesota strawberry farmer Dan Brouwer. "It eliminates a lot of hand labor and spreads a nice even swath of straw on our berries."

Brouwer bought 2 old Gehl forage boxes online expecting to use one for spreading and the other for parts. He extended the discharge chute on one of the wagons by welding on pieces of scrap metal and covering them with round heating duct. The 24-in. wide chute is the same width as a row of strawberries. A plywood shield on the outside keeps material in a nice even windrow as straw is spread over the berries each fall. Brouwer also added rafter-like boards on top to hold extra straw bales.

"The wagon works great and the self-unloading saves us a lot of time getting on and off the tractor to fork straw on the rows," says Brouwer's wife Sarah, who along with their 5 children, do plenty of the field work on their farm. "All this setup requires is removing the twine so it doesn't get caught in the unloading beaters."

The Brouwers use cover crops and grazing to improve production on their 12-acre irrigated farm. They rotate production so six acres are in berry production each year 3 acres have young plants, and 3 acres are used as pasture for 8 head of cattle. They plant cover crops of rye, sorghum-sudan, red clover, daikon radish and winter peas on the pasture.

Using this efficient straw spreading method, the cover crop and grazing rotation has helped the Brouwers more than double the size of their berry production in just a few years, and yields have almost tripled. "It's just incredible how the system pays off in yields," says Sarah. "The berries are large, lush and very flavorful."

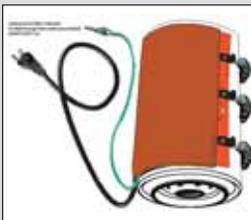
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brouwer Berries, 12951 105th St. S.W., Raymond, Minn. 56282 (ph 320 967-4718; Sarah@brouwerberries.com).

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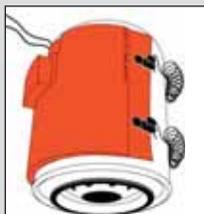
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Fits 2.5-in. dia. to 4-in. dia. filters at least 4-in. tall. Eliminates filter changes and labor due to gelling diesel fuel in the filter. Held in place with



two stainless springs and nylon ties. Easy install and removal. 3-year warranty.



Brushshark's fast cycle time makes quick work of clearing brush and trees up to 8" in diameter.

"Invaluable Land Clearing Tool"

The Brushshark Tree Shear will quickly shear 1/2 to 8-in. diameter trees and brush at ground level. Each cycle takes approximately 1 second and it shears in both directions. Trees and brush up to 3 in. diameter are sheared in one cycle. Material larger than 3 in. diameter, up to 8 in., is efficiently sheared with multiple cycles.

All types of trees and brush can be cleared with the Brushshark. From hard mesquite or cedar to soft saplings. We have yet to find a material that Brushshark will not shear.

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The Brushshark is operated on skid steer loaders and most tractors with auxiliary hydraulics rated at least 8 GPM.

The rock solid Brushshark is made in the USA and has been commercially available since 2003.

For more information contact Steve Marshall (ph 512 263-6830; info@brushshark.com; www.brushshark.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 110