

Tow rope company specializes in the heavier side of recovery, offering tow lines and shackles with up to 1.54 million pounds of breaking strength.



Full Pull Ropes Offer Easier Towing

For one cranberry farmer, a passion for helping others has turned into a profitable business. Nick Gebhardt is a fourth-generation farmer who works with his brother to manage close to 300 acres of cranberries grown for Ocean Spray.

But today you're just as likely to find him managing his side business - Search and Recovery Engineering, LLC. The company offers a complete lineup of search and recovery (SAR) equipment that includes "full pull" tow ropes for anyone who works with heavy equipment.

Gebhardt and his family honed their manufacturing skills in their cranberry bogs. His dad manufactured his own equipment and built a machine shop in the 1990's to produce specialty products for others in the cranberry industry.

"I discovered high-strength synthetic winch lines while diving about 15 years ago and since have used them on our cranberry marshes," shares Gebhardt. "The capabilities and versatility of these ropes make them ideal for heavy recovery operations where high strength lightweight tow ropes are needed."

Once Gebhardt realized that other farmers could benefit from the marine industry tools he was using, he started selling the "full pull ropes". Today the ropes are bought by spe-

cially markets such as agriculture, construction, mining, utilities, and landfills.

For these customers, having rescue equipment available to quickly and efficiently recover a stuck machine can pay dividends during busy seasons. The company currently specializes in the heavier side of recovery, offering tow lines and shackles with up to 1.54 million pounds of breaking strength.

These specialty ropes and towing equipment offer many advantages compared to traditional rescue equipment. Gebhardt is especially proud of the brand's Amsteel-Blue Recovery Tow Ropes.

"Samson rope designed Amsteel-Blue in 1996 and is currently the most trusted brand in the Maritime industry and also crossing over into heavy tow recovery," he explained. "Amsteel-Blue is a lightweight, low-stretch rope with the same characteristics as steel cable at 1/7th the weight."

A 20-ft. 9/16-in. Amsteel-Blue recovery rope with chafe guard and 45,000-lb. average strength sells for \$125 plus shipping. Bulk pricing depends on thickness and strength.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Search and Recovery Engineering, LLC, 800 Oasis Rd., Black River Falls, Wis. 54615 (ph 833-392-3589; www.sregear.com).

Robot Welder Delivers Precision Welds Every Time

The Cobot welding package wows attendees at farm shows and industrial shows alike. It lets any trained operator produce professional-quality welds. Central McGowan combined a Lincoln Power Wave welder with an automation unit to create the mobile robotic welder.

"This is a product partnership we put together to make a portable, programmable welding system," says Julie Berling, Central McGowan. "It can easily be moved around the production or shop floor."

What makes the Cobot shine is the ease of programming. The operator shows it what to do with arm movements and drag and drop programming. Move the arm to the starting point on the weld and punch in the position on the control device. Move it to the end position and punch in that position. Welding speed is 39 in. per second.

"It is such an easy teaching application," says Berling. "It's not for repetitive welds. However, it fits a multitude of different welding applications and types of welds."

The Cobot can be programmed to make a single pass or multiple passes and is easily repositioned. Clamp the piece to be welded to the integrated tabletop and start welding.

"The resulting weld is beautiful, very clean, the perfect weld," says Berling.

The automation unit can be ordered with the 49-in. standard arm or the 56-in. long arm.



CRX FAB-PAK Cobot is a welding package that allows the operator to produce quality welds with easy programming.

Berling suggests interested readers call the company to discuss needs and price.

"Every customer has unique needs, and the arm and welding setup is equally unique," says Berling. "We don't have a standard base price."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Central McGowan Automation & Robotic Center, 2820 1st St. S, St. Cloud, Minn. 56301 (ph 320-257-4800 or 800-569-1322; Automation@CentralMcGowan.com; www.centralmcgowan.com).

Trailer Ramp Lift Assist

"Recently I borrowed my grandson's mower trailer and while I had it I decided to repair the fold-down ramp. The problem was that after I finished the repairs it was so heavy I could hardly lift it," says Kenny Vandeventer.

"I decided to add a spring-loaded lift assist to one side of the ramp. I know you can buy them but since I'm a cheapskate, I wanted to use things I already had on hand. I ended up using the arrangement you see in the pics with a cable and three pulleys hooked up to a really strong implement spring. It's very simple but really came together nicely.

"Now I can easily lift the ramp when it's down. I plan to put a protective guard over the lift assist."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenny Vandeventer, 3139 Indiana Rd. Ottawa, KS 66067 (ph 785-241-0613).



Vandeventer used a heavy spring to make his own fold-down ramp lift assist.

Hydraulic Hand Pumps Provide Big Power

Two-speed hydraulic hand pumps from Bosch offer a versatile alternative to power hydraulics or bottle jacks for many shop uses. The OTC 4004 hydraulic hand pump can produce 10,000 psi, compatible with rams between 10 and 100 tons.

"The OTC 4004 is ideal for any job involving bending or straightening strong metals with a ram, extracting or installing bushings on equipment, lifting heavy materials or shop press operations," says Denny Hanson, Bosch.

The U.S.-made hand pump has a reservoir capacity of 24.4 cu. in. Dimensions are 7.2 by 7.7 by 20 in. It has a shipping weight of only 9.95 lbs.

The rugged, all-metal construction is built to handle all conditions. It has a maximum handle effort of 90 lbs. and is an economical power source when 20 cu. in. or less of useable oil is adequate.

The OTC division of Bosch Automotive Service Solutions offers several hand-powered alternatives of lesser and larger power. Prices vary significantly by dealer.



Bosch OTC 4004 hydraulic hand pump can produce up to 10,000 psi and is compatible with rams between 10 and 100 tons.

The suggested retail price for the OTC 4004 is \$999, but it can be found online from several suppliers in the \$530 to \$550 price range.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bosch Automotive Service Solutions, 28635 Mound Rd., Warren, Mich. 48092 (ph 800-533-6127; inquiry@service-solutions.com; www.otctools.com).

Ways To Reuse Radiator Cores

Roger Podoll has found multiple uses for old radiator cores. He sticks them in front of the OEM radiator core on skid steers and tractors as a pre-cleaner and also uses them as filters in his shop.

"I cut out sections to fit gas and diesel fuel funnels," says Podoll. "They make great strainers."



An old radiator core can be used as a pre-cleaner in front of an existing radiator.

He has also used them to strain out old paint and set them over rain barrels to strain out debris from rain gutters.

He keeps one with his parts washer. It's a great place to set parts to dry. When he wants to elevate a painted part to dry, he simply



Old radiators work great as shop strainers or as a drying rack.

drives in a few screws. The radiator cores are also great for drying gloves as they allow plenty of air movement.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Podoll, W8772 State Rd. 21, Wautoma, Wis. 54982 (ph 920-295-2357).