

“Spread Anything” Spreaders

Sides Spreader and Equipment Company, Inc. is a family-owned business in North Carolina that creates unique spreaders designed for any size farm operation.

“This company was formed out of necessity,” says company correspondent Beth Myers. “Mr. Sides has been in the erosion control business for 45 years. About 20 years ago, he grew frustrated with the fact that the equipment he needed to be successful was not available.”

Sides could never get lime trucks when he needed them, and those that were available often couldn't get into the areas where he wanted them. Worse, those on the market only worked to spread pelletized material. This wouldn't work, as he needed a way to apply loose material like agriculture lime, chicken litter, and compost.

Sensing a void in the equipment market, Sides built some prototypes of a 3-point hitch spreader. The result was the Sides Spread-All spreader - a versatile piece of equipment that can accomplish many spreading tasks. The critical component is an auger that constantly feeds the discard hole of the product, letting it spread things other spreaders can't handle.

“Most equipment is designed by a man behind a computer. Ours was designed by a man in the field with experience in real-life situations,” says Myers. “We feel we have the best test market of all since we have 100 men running 25 of these spreaders year-round. We spread every type of product you can think of. From the different job sites to the different tractors, we truly give them a workout.”

All Sides spreaders are made from American-made products whenever possible, and local fabricators cut out the parts before they are assembled by hand. The lower hoppers differ from anything else on the market, thanks to their 100 percent stainless steel construction.

The company sells two hopper sizes: a 53-in. model for a narrow row application and an



Spreader is shown without the hopper, revealing the pto driven auger inside.

83-in. for standard size operations. Both can hold between one to two tons and can fit on any size tractor with Class I or II hookups.

As each unit can be configured differently, Sides doesn't have standard pricing and instead recommends you contact them directly for an estimate.

“All of our belts, bearings, and seals can be sourced at any local auto parts store. We provide each spreader customer with a parts catalog that makes these readily available,” says Myers.

Many accessories are available, from a rock guard to a two-piece band attachment and an electric actuator that makes it possible to open and close the spreader from inside the cab of a tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sides Spreader & Equipment Company, Inc., 1010 American Way, Lexington, N.C. 27295 (ph 877-733-3464, www.sidesspreaders.com/).

Poly Hoof Block Stays In Place

Creating a better hoof block that stays in place is the result of 75 years of experience working with plastics and adhesives. The Bohning Block was introduced in 2020 with an all-new design that adheres well to a cow's healthy hoof claw to keep the pressure off the damaged claw so it can be treated and heal.

“The durability and adhesion are what sets us apart. The honeycomb design offers a lot of surface area to provide adhesion. We've researched and tested different materials for durability,” says Holly Henrickson at Bohning Archery. The Michigan company got its start making archery products and has since expanded into other industries.

An employee's relative, who is a hoof trimmer, made Bohning aware of the need for a better block that lasts for at least six weeks without wear. The result is the Bohning Hoof Block in two sizes. Because no oil is used in making the urethane blocks, and because of the honeycomb pattern, the blocks stay on with any epoxy glue typically used on hoof blocks.

The blocks are bi-directional to use on either side of the hoof, have a hole to hang on a peg and will last up to three months in rough field conditions according to customers who have used them. One customer notes that the blocks keep their shape and don't wear unevenly as some blocks do.

The hoof blocks are made in Michigan and are sold in packs of 50 and 200 for \$137 to \$530 depending on size and quantity. They can be purchased through Bohning as well as at Leestone, Armor Animal Health, and other distributors and retailers.



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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bohning Archery, 7361 N. 7 Mile Rd., Lake City, Mich. 49651 (ph 231-229-4247; intsales@bohning.com; www.BohningAg.com).

Roller Mill Processes 275 Bu. Corn/Hour

For livestock farmers or microbreweries wanting to roll their own grain, Valmetal offers their simple yet efficient 2R12 roller mill.

This practical mill rolls up to 275 bu/hr. of corn and 200 bu/hr. for wheat and comes with a choice of 140 groove rolls (5.5 grooves/inch) for large grains or 280 groove rolls (11 grooves/inch) for smaller grains.

“Our rollers are larger diameter than our competitors which helps to feed the larger grains,” says Ralph Fanning, U.S. Sales Director. “Gapping is adjustable with one roller running slightly faster than the other to help with self-cleaning.”

A choice of a 5 or 10-hp. electrical motor is available to drive the unit.

Standard features include magnet, funnel, adjustable legs and scraper.

Proportioners to meter several ingredients at a time can be added along with collecting augers with 5-in. horizontal or vertical discharges.

The units are produced and manufactured in St. Germaine, Quebec, Canada, with Valmetal's Wisconsin location acting as the distribution center for the Midwest. 150 combined dealers serve all of North America.

The 2R12 base unit retails for \$5,000 (USD) plus S&H. Electric motors come separately and sell in the \$1,000 to \$1,400



Valmetal roller mill has different roll options and two different drive motor choices.

range. Other options are additional.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph Fanning, 230 Industriel Blvd., Saint-Germain-de-Grantham, Quebec, Canada J0C 1K0 (ph 608-374-2206; info@valmetal.com; www.valmetal.com).



Ravenkamp converted an old Gleaner to clean cover crop seed at a fraction of the cost of a commercial seed cleaner.

Gleaner Converted To Stationary Seed Cleaner

Scott Ravenkamp modified an older Gleaner combine to serve as a stationary cleaner for alfalfa and clover seed. He modified sieve screens, tightened down the cylinder, and put a dump box on the feeder housing.

“Harvest alfalfa and clover seed with a modern combine and you end up with something that looks like ground hay,” says Ravenkamp. “Old combines like the Gleaner F had screens for different crops.” When Ravenkamp couldn't find a clover screen, he built his own using aeration tubing. He flattened it out and screwed it to a frame.

Ravenkamp had initially set the combine up for a hemp seed producer. He opened up the cylinder by removing bars, and they ran 3,000 hemp plants through it by hand.

“We spent \$1,500 on the old Gleaner, and it worked perfectly, versus a quarter-million-dollar hemp seed harvester,” says Ravenkamp. “It separated out the seed and captured all the leaves and stems that came out the back.”

When the hemp producer no longer needed the Gleaner, Ravenkamp brought it back to his place to try it on clover seed. He built a hopper out of plywood with an angle iron frame that he bolted to the housing. It was sized to fit the feeder throat, with triangular ends and an angled front side that directed seed into the throat.

With the modified screen in place and cylinder bars returned and tightened down, Ravenkamp put the Gleaner rethresher to

work.

“We used a forklift to carry totes of unthreshed grain to the hopper on the combine,” he says.

After seed passed through the cylinder and the screen, it was augered to the clean grain elevator. Ravenkamp disconnected the drive belt on the elevator and opened up the cover under the elevator base. The seed dropped into a hopper for a load-out auger that transferred the seed to an empty tote.

The Gleaner was parked at the edge of a decline, and bits of straw and other non-seed materials simply blew away.

“We ran around 20,000 lbs. of clover seed and trash through it in one day, and it was shocking how well it came out,” says Ravenkamp. “We filled a Pro box with about 500 lbs. of seed.”

The stationary thresher worked so well with clover that Ravenkamp decided to try organic alfalfa seed. Like the clover, it was mixed with non-seed material.

“The alfalfa seed producer had previously run the combined materials through a hammer mill to break up the trash and then run it through a seed cleaner,” says Ravenkamp. “He was losing 20 percent of his seed. We ran it through the Gleaner and threshed out 400 bushels of organic alfalfa in a weekend.”

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