



Self-propelled seeder has a centralized motor placed above the planting rows.

## German-Built Autonomous Planter

German company Horsch recently went public with their first autonomous planter. It's undergoing field tests in Brazil.

"The Horsch RO G 500 is a self-propelled seeder with the ability to autonomously traverse lines previously planned on the computer," says Rodrigo Duck, company CEO. "The machine allows Horsch to take significant steps toward full automation and autonomy in the field."

Field line planning is created on a computer for the machine to follow autonomously.

The unit carries a centralized motor placed above the planting rows. Front and rear traction supported by wide wheel spacing of about 12 ft. in the rear and 35 ft. in the front helps avoid soil compaction. Below the power head, planting lines from Horsch's Maestro series are mounted, delivering a working width of 24 meters. Double discs with lateral depth control guarantee precise seed placement. GPS technology and im-

proved traffic planning add efficiency to the machine.

Founder Michael Horsch explains the autonomous planter's capacity was developed for sowing soybeans where large volumes of seed compartments are useful to increase operational efficiency.

The company selected Brazil for initial testing, planting soybeans and maize during the second half of 2022. Horsch says they started using the Gantry there due to increasing demand for large working widths, plus the climate supports two sowing seasons per year.

Interested customers are encouraged to contact Horsch through their website for information, availability, and pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Horsch LLC, 200 Knutson St., Mapleton, N.D. 58059 (ph 701-532-1000; info.us@horsch.com; www.horsch.com).



No-power disc cutters feature slightly overlapping blades near ground level that use equipment movement to complete cuts.

## Disc-Type Tree Cutters Work Fast

For farmers and acreage owners needing to cut down lots of smaller trees on their property, CVR Manufacturing has developed two "unpowered" disc cutters for ATVs, skid steers, and tractors.

The 4-in. or 8-in. cutters relate to the maximum diameter of the trees they'll cut.

"On the 4-in. we build it however the customer wants," says Kelly Coover, CVR Manufacturing President. "Whatever attachment or mount is needed for 4-wheelers or side by sides, we either have a bracket or we'll fabricate one. It's part of the price."

The 8-in. models are designed as a universal bucket mount for a skid steer or tractor.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is our cutters are unpowered," Coover says. "No hydraulics or PTO drives are necessary."

Cutting is done by using only the forward motion of the machine. Slightly overlapping blades placed at ground level use momentum to complete the cut. With the 4-in. model, a walking speed through the tree is used. On the larger model, the saw is positioned in front of the trunk and then driven through it in one motion.

"Slightly sloped 15-degree angled blades use the tree trunk to rotate about 90 degrees toward each other. The force and mechanical advantage are what make the cut. Everything going through the blades is swiftly cut off, so I only recommend cutting when no bystanders are nearby to save fingers and toes," Coover says.

The blades are AR400 durable quality steel and hold an edge well. During 10 years of production, CVR has never sold a set of replacement blades. Steel bushings and a solid frame support the cutting process.

Coover says their 8-in. unit can cut up to 300 6 to 8-in. trees per hour. The length of life for the equipment is hundreds of thousands of trees.

The unpowered disc cutters are produced at the CVR headquarters.

The 4-in. cutter sells for \$1,400, and the 8-in. is \$2,250 plus S&H direct from the shop.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelly Coover, CVR Manufacturing, 6 Center St., Galesburg, Kan. 66740 (ph 620-763-2500; sales@cvrmanufacturing.com; www.cvrmanufacturing.com).



Davis says the bar's uniquely designed flux manifold features a V-shaped bottom to catch debris and rocks without plugging the product lines.

## Liquid Manure Spreader Is A Game Changer

Bazooka Farmstar has upgraded its original Dribble Bar to the Dribble Bar 2, adding greater precision, durability, and efficiency. The 3-pt. hitch-equipped, 44-ft. wide spreader features a heavier frame, hydraulic mainlines, and a unique discharge valve. A heavy-duty 3-in. Bumblebee hose delivers the liquid manure to 44 dribble lines and 22 ports holding Y-shaped drop tubes spaced 12-in. apart. Hydraulic rear folding wings for road transport come standard.

"The bar opens up year-round application," says Marcus Davis, Bazooka Farmstar National Sales Manager. "It can apply between 3,000 and 25,000 gallons per acre to hay crops after they're harvested without hurting alfalfa plants."

A 6-in. Krohne Flowmeter controlling applied gallons per acre is visible from the tractor's cab, and a 6-in. pipe swivel allows for smoother and more durable turning in the field without damaging or pinching the supply hose.

Davis says the bar's uniquely designed

flux manifold features a V-shaped bottom to catch debris and rocks without plugging the product lines.

"On the manifold, the ports are above where debris settles near the bottom, so the liquid manure keeps flowing," Davis says. "It's a great feature. To clean it out, you just open the discharge valve and flush it on the go without having to shut the system down. Then close the valve."

The heavier frame and larger 3-in. hose also help set the machine apart from its competitors.

The Dribble Bar 2 is manufactured in Washington, Iowa, and is available through a North American-based dealer network.

Prices range from \$48,000 to \$68,000 depending on options.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bazooka Farmstar, 800 E. 7th St., Washington, Iowa 52353 (ph 800-775-7448; mdavis@bazookafarmstar.com; www.bazookafarmstar.com).

## N Applicator Sized For The Job

Dan Dykstra found it hard to get an ag retailer to apply 32 percent nitrogen on a 20-acre field, so he built his own rig. For less than \$900, he can apply N when he wants it with his 400-gal. rig.

"I bought a 3-pt. rotary hoe for \$400, bought a couple of planter tanks for \$79, and a used 4-roller pump sprayer," says Dykstra. "I took the hoe wheels off and bought used disc openers from a guy who rebuilds planters for only \$20."

Dykstra plumbed the applicator with pvc pipes and tees above each opener leading to anhydrous drop tubes. He zip-tied the pvc pipe to the toolbar for flexibility as it moved through the field. His "high-tech" metering device consisted of drilling a 1/64-in. hole in pvc plugs at each tee.

"The size was a guesstimate," admits Dykstra. "It was the smallest bit I had, and I knew I could always drill larger holes. I figured I wanted the rate too light rather than too heavy. After some trial and error, I figured that 6 mph was about right with that hole size."

Dykstra figured the pvc plug holes were a good alternative to ceramic tips. "The tips would have been too pricey for this system," he says.

The only drawback to his \$600 system was the size of the tanks. He quickly discovered he could only get about 4 acres with each fill. This past spring, he upgraded his tank and pump.

"I picked up a tow-behind nitrogen applicator at a consignment auction for only



Dykstra plumbed the applicator with pvc pipes and tees above each opener leading to anhydrous drop tubes. He zip-tied the pvc pipe to the toolbar for flexibility as it moved through the field.

\$350," says Dykstra. "It had a 500-gal. tank with a John Blue pump and 3-pt. connectors for a toolbar, but no toolbar."

The conversion was as simple as hooking on to the rotary hoe toolbar and changing a few hoses.

"I raise sorghum for hay on the field, and I use the applicator to make a half rate pass at planting and another after first cutting," says Dykstra. "It works great, and I don't risk burning the sorghum leaves."

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