

Mineral Feeder Made To Last

The X-Feeder by Elite Feeds & Nutrition is a mineral feeder designed for convenience. The durable plastic container has room for two salt blocks and anywhere from 150 to 300 lbs. of loose minerals. It includes four built-in handles, as well as four bolt holes for tire mounting. Each feeder has a durable lid that's easy to manipulate for adding more minerals while protecting everything inside from harsh weather conditions.

Founder Ben Hellmann designed the X-Feeder after years of running cows and doing nutrition work. "I saw a need for ease of handling and efficiency as the cost of everything has grown significantly," he says. "A salt block is not cheap anymore. This feeder will make your salt blocks last longer and keep them from melting into the soil."

Hellmann began designing in May 2022 and worked directly with a molding company. "It took lots of adjustments and tweaks to develop a design, but we came up with the final product with the very first mold," he says. The first X-Feeder was produced for sale in March 2023.

"The poly piece is made of a resin (linear low polyethylene) that's currently made in Tea, S.D. It's durable and has a UV stabilizer added so it doesn't break down in the sun, giving it maximum longevity," says Hellmann. "The rubber top is made of a type of 'conveyor belting' for durability. This part comes from Minnesota."

"Other feeders come with challenges that can make filling your feeder a hassle," says Hellmann. "We've found that other feeders



X-Feeder can hold up to 300 lbs. of loose minerals and has a lid made from conveyor belting.

aren't durable enough, have limited space, or leave you putting salt blocks on the ground to melt away in the weather. We wanted to develop a way to make life easier for the cattle producer. The X-Feeder was designed by producers for producers and is a fit for any size operation, big or small."

To purchase, contact Elite Feeds and Nutrition, Inc. Current pricing starts at \$319 before shipping. Elite Feeds & Nutrition is in the process of securing a patent.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elite Feeds and Nutrition, Inc., 403 W. SD Hwy 50, Tyndall, S.D. 57066 (ph 605-589-3003; office.efn1@gmail.com; Facebook: Elite Feeds & Nutrition, Inc.).



Martin manufactures the Accura Flow in Missouri, and his cultivators are receiving excellent reviews from close to 60 customers already using them.

New Cultivator Ramps Up Production

By Bruce Derksen, Contributing Editor

Row crop farmers now have an additional tillage tool to choose from for controlling weeds in their pre and post-emergent organic crops.

Isaac Martin is the sole owner and designer of the Accura Flow organic farming row crop cultivator. Agricultural consultant Gary McDonald came up with the original idea for the cultivator and now helps as a tester, using it on his farm and demonstrating its capabilities to gather feedback from potential customers.

"We focused on ease of adjustment and accuracy, having it stay put without slopping when working. That's where the name comes from," says McDonald. "It gets weeds out of organic certified row crops. Conventional operators are looking at it too because herbicides are no longer always working properly."

The well-designed, heavy-duty 3-pt. hitch mounted units come in sizes ranging from 4 to 16 rows with widths up to 40 ft.

Front 3 by 13-in. gauge wheels are followed by coulters and sweeps on either side of the row.

"The front walking tandem gauge wheels smooth out the unit's travel even when it hits a bump or rock," says Martin. "They work together to provide excellent flotation."

He explains there are many ways to outfit the organic cultivators depending on what the farmer needs and wants, so each piece of equipment is designed and built differently.

Martin manufactures the Accura Flow in Missouri, and his cultivators are receiving excellent reviews from close to 60 customers already using them.

He says the company is quickly ramping up activity. While the Accura Flow website is still under construction, Martin is setting up his first dealer to help with distribution. He encourages interested customers to contact him directly to discuss the wide variety of designs and costs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Isaac Martin, Boonville, Mo. 65233 (ph 641-208-0143; isaac@accuraflow.net).



Ferris has adopted the new Vanguard Oil Guard System.

Mowers Offer 500 Hours Between Oil Changes

Briggs & Stratton's Vanguard commercial engines introduced the Vanguard Oil Guard System with its promise of a 500-hour oil change. The system has been adopted by multiple companies producing mowers for the professional landscaper market. They include Ferris, Wright, Hustler Turf Equipment, and, most recently, Exmark.

The extended change cycle is largely the result of more oil, better filtration, and an integrated cooling system for the oil. Excess heat is the major factor in oil degradation, and the Oil Guard System guards against heat.

Key to maintaining oil quality is the quantity of oil in the dry sump system. Dry sump systems with their external reservoirs are used in high-performance race cars. Oil Guard maintains 1 quart circulating through the crankcase and 5 in an external, side-of-engine reservoir. This ensures constant lubrication of all engine parts, even on side hills.

Other commercial mower engines use the wet sump system with 2 quarts of oil in the crankcase. The 2-quart capacity wet sump system can drain oil away from the main bearings at the top of the engine on steep terrain or swales. This can cause friction, heat (also damaging to the oil), and engine failure.

With the Oil Guard System, as the hot oil returns from the engine, it mixes with the 5 quarts in the reservoir and quickly cools. The cooling is aided by the aluminum

reservoir, which quickly releases heat to the surrounding air.

The system also features a large, automotive-style oil filter with cyclonic filtering. It's 80 percent more efficient at filtration than standard spin-on oil filters.

Changing filters and oil is fast, easy, and requires no tools. Open the drain, and 5 quarts of oil drain out. Remove the large, easy-fill cap at the top of the reservoir, twist the oil filter a partial turn, and pull it up and out. Close the drain, pour in 5 quarts of oil, insert a new filter, twist, and close the cap. The job is done.

The Oil Guard System seems to be ahead of the game on commercial, gas-fueled engines. However, as one critic on YouTube pointed out, big diesel-powered mowers have it beat. They cool 3 to 7 quarts of oil with an oil cooler and remote filter. Most also use an air pre-cleaner with a stainless snorkel (reducing rust entry into the engine and oil) directing air into a dual filter Donaldson and then an engine-mounted air filter.

The Oil Guard System is available on select 26 through 40-hp. Vanguard electronic fuel ignition and Big Block V-Twin Vertical Shaft commercial engines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vanguard Commercial Power, Briggs & Stratton Corporation (toll-free 800-999-9333; www.vanguardpower.com).



An oversized hydraulic system ensures it operates smoothly, even when running wet or processing frozen bales.

Straw Spreader Speeds Up Feeding

The HMI Bale Blaster Straw Spreader allows for fast, even spreading of hay bales through feedlots. It's available in 2-bale, 4-bale and 6-bale units.

The bale blaster features an aggressive beater design with removable beater drive guards. There are also heavy-duty axle wheels with flotation tires, along with a robust, oversized floor chain with pull-back tabs. Heavy channel sides and a durable powder-coat finish ensure it stays in excellent condition even with heavy wear.

All of the oversized sprockets, chains, and drive shafts are easy to access for convenient servicing, and it comes with a replaceable UHMW bearing block for a push rack guide. It's built with a heavy-duty frame and tongue

with a 10,000-lb. jack, and a built-in ring will hold a twine barrel.

The 540 PTO-driven pump rests on the trailer tongue when not in use, effectively keeping it off the ground. An oversized hydraulic system ensures it operates smoothly, even when running wet or processing frozen bales. There's also a tire guard to protect the hydraulic pump hose.

Each Bale Blaster comes with a 1-year warranty. Pricing varies by unit; contact the HMI directly for details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hatfield Manufacturing, Inc., 1823 Shoestring Rd., Gooding, Idaho 83330 (ph 800-359-8171; www.hatfieldmfg.com).