



Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) has been training the ZoomAgri machine, creating high-resolution scans of more than 250 samples.

AI Is Revolutionizing Barley Identification

Seed growers and grain inspectors can usually distinguish barley varieties, often using a 10x lens or microscope. If the variety is unknown, a genetic test can identify it, though this process is costly and takes at least a week.

ZoomAgri in Argentina offers an Artificial Intelligence-based solution for quick, accurate and cost-effective variety identification.

The technology company's platform has been used in over 20 countries to identify imported barley varieties. Canadian barley producers, through the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC), have been training the ZoomAgri machine, creating high-resolution scans of more than 250 samples.

The device resembles an office scanner, with a special holder for separating seeds. A sample is poured, and the seeds are spread evenly. The machine scans them, compares the images to its database, and identifies the variety or mix, achieving accuracy nearly equal to genetic testing.

Todd Hyra, Western business manager with SeCan in Winnipeg, a partner of the CMBTC, says it initially seemed too good to be true. "When we met with Marco and Augustine from ZoomAgri back in May, it seemed pretty wild to be able to take a high-resolution digital scan and train it, when the speed of it just seems so out of this world," he says.

During a presentation at the Interprovincial Seed Growers Associations Meeting in Saskatoon, November 2023, the machine accurately identified numerous barley variety samples in just two minutes or less.

Malting barley varieties frequently have a similar appearance, which can vary depending on the region and growing conditions. By using a wide range of samples, machine learning algorithms can efficiently handle these differences.

Major maltsters and exporters depend on varietal purity, so quick and accurate confirmation of varieties is crucial for their operations.

"When it can be done on every truckload added to a bin, it just heads off any issues with contamination or variety mixing," Hyra said.

He considers ZoomAgri technology to be an addition to the current seed variety certification process, not a substitute. This rapid method for assessing variety and varietal purity may enhance the range of tools available to seed growers.

"They'll use their own processes to keep it pure, but this provides that extra check for relatively low cost; just extra peace of mind," he said.

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No-Pump Hand Sprayer

The Aussie EzySpray works without power or a pump; it uses water pressure to spray from 6 ft. to 16 ft. It was initially designed in Australia to prevent the spread of wildfires.

Lightweight and simple to operate, it comes in 0.8-gal and 1.3-gal sizes and provides four different spray patterns.

A standard handheld sprayer can require 125 or more pumps for a 1.3-gal. tank. EzySpray's patented pre-pressurized Power Pouch requires no manual pumping; just connect your garden hose and fill the tank. Once the tank is full, disconnect from the hose to prevent excess water from escaping through the pressure release valve.

EzySpray features an ergonomic carry handle, making it easy to spray flowerpots and gardens without the work of pumping up the sprayer.

EzySpray costs \$90 for the 0.8-gal sprayer and \$100 for the 1.3-gal., with free shipping. It includes a limited warranty after product registration.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Aussie



Handheld sprayers can require 125 or more pumps for a 1.3-gal. tank. EzySpray's Power Pouch requires no manual pumping.

EzySpray (www.aussieezy spray.com) or Garden Your Way (ph 844-460-4769; www.gardenyourway.com).

Double Small Square Baler Transforms Hay Production

"For high-output hay operations, a double small square baler isn't just a convenience, it's a strategic tool," says Massey Ferguson Hay and Harvesting Marketing Manager Jessica Williamson. "With labor growing more expensive and harder to find, and harvest windows becoming shorter and less predictable, the need to do more with less is more urgent than ever. That's where a machine like ours stands out."

The Hesston by Massey Ferguson SB.1436DB delivers two bales in a single pass, effectively doubling productivity. Fewer passes mean reduced fuel use, lower labor costs and less soil compaction, all of which help improve the bottom line.

Williamson states that the benefits go beyond efficiency, as a double baler allows producers to better adapt to rising temperatures or an approaching storm. This capability also helps preserve forage quality, maximizing its nutritional value and marketability.

"The math is compelling for operations producing tens of thousands of bales each season," she says. "More bales per pass, fewer hands in the field, and greater consistency all add up to a faster return on investment."

Massey Ferguson's double baler brings several standout features to the table, beginning with its single-wide chamber and splitting knife, which create two uniform 14 by 18-in. bales per pass, reducing the number of moving parts compared to dual-plunger models.

Unlike balers that tie two bales simultaneously, the SB.1436DB ties each independently, ensuring that even in inconsistent crop flow, bales maintain their preset length, which improves stackability, transport and customer satisfaction.

Additional features include a wide 105-in. pickup and twine boxes holding up to 20 balls of standard small square bale twine, enough for approximately 8,000 bales. Auto-lubrication for the knottor system further reduces daily maintenance.

The SimpleBale® advanced monitoring and control technology system is another



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key highlight, automating bale density, flake count, weight and length. With the optional weight scale, the system can also run in auto density mode, automatically adjusting the hydraulic density compression on the fly to hit targeted bale weights.

"The MF SB.1436DB's SimpleBale system is more than just a monitoring tool; it's a full-scale baling management system designed to deliver precision, consistency and real-time control from the operator's seat," Williamson says.

It can be retrofitted onto other Massey Ferguson balers and even integrated into some non-AGCO models.

"If you're a producer who values throughput, uptime and ease of maintenance, the SB.1436DB provides a practical advantage that pays off in both productivity and peace of mind," Williamson says.

The unique balers are manufactured in Hesston, Kan., and carry an approximate list price of \$170,000.

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Pipe Sleeves Save Time

A Texas company is manufacturing pre-saddled pipe sleeves that save time and money on pipe fence and gate projects.

Saddled 'N' Ready began on an East Texas ranch more than 30 years ago and aimed to find an easier way to build a quality pipe fence.

"The skills adapted by ranchers and farmers are extensive and range from welding to medicine. There are limited hours in a day, and we understand the need to have your investments protected quickly but with long-term results," according to Saddled 'N' Ready.

Pipe sleeves can also be used with H-braces and corner braces, livestock pens, arenas and corrals, gates, lean-tos, skid shelters, hay barns, hay trailers, mangers and racks.

Two-inch schedule 40 has the same outside diameter as 2 3/8-in. oilfield pipe (drill stem, oilfield tubing, etc.). Two-and-a-half-inch schedule 40 has the same outer diameter as 2 7/8-in. oilfield pipe (drill stem, oilfield tubing, etc.).

"These pipe sleeves make it easier to put rails on and save time welding," says Steven K.

The pipe sleeves are made in the U.S. using American steel. Prices start at \$6 for individual sleeves. Kits are available, and they offer an online calculator to easily determine how many sleeves your project needs. They



Pre-saddled pipe sleeves save time and make welding pipe fence easier.

offer flat-rate shipping within the U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Saddled 'N' Ready, 200 VZ County Rd. 4913, Ben Wheeler, Texas 75754 (ph 888-969-4283; info@saddled-n-ready.com; www.saddled-n-ready.com).