



Silage is blown into former at high speed to firmly pack it. Former is filled, then moved ahead about 2 ft. and refilled to form stacks of unlimited length.

SILAGE FORMER USED WITH BLOWER MAKES "SPOILAGE PROOF" STACKS

Slick Way to Stack Silage

Slickest new system we have seen for putting up quality silage for least cost is a portable stack former introduced by Kools Brothers, Appleton, Wis.

Silage is blown into the former with a conventional high capacity blower — the same type used to fill upright silos. As the former is filled, it is moved ahead about 2 ft. at a time and refilled to make stacks of unlimited length.

By using a blower with a high fan tip speed, such as Kools model KB 60 or KB 1000, silage is packed so tightly that there is very little spoilage. "You can cover the piles with plastic but it really isn't necessary," Robert Kools told FARM SHOW. "The stack former itself will handle any type of silage you can get through the blower, including corn stover."

For the farmer who already has upright storage, Kools suggests that he put up extra stacks of silage using the new former and a blower, then reloading the stacks into the upright silos. For the farmer who doesn't have upright storage, or who has some but needs more storage capacity, Kools suggests investing in the former and, if you don't already own one, a high speed blower. "Silos cost a lot more money and are never big enough. With this new stacking system, you can build stacks of unlimited length, and for a lot less cost than conventional upright storage. There is no way you can pack silage this tightly by driving over regular stacked silage with a tractor. What's more, this new stacking system is safer since it eliminates the need for driving any kind of vehicle on the pile to pack it."

Key to the system is the former itself. It measures 20 ft. wide at the bottom, 10 ft. at the top, and 11 ft. long. The portable unit folds to a narrow 7 ft. width and can be towed

down the road behind a pickup at speeds up to 50 mph. It takes one man about three minutes to convert the unit from set-up to transport position, or vice versa, according to Kools.

"A key advantage with this system is that it preserves the silage without having to go to the expense of stuffing or pressing it into special bags or containers to preserve it," explains Kools. "There is no bag to buy, and no bag to bother with when it comes time to feed silage out of the pile."

Kools adds that to start the pile, rear doors in the former are kept closed. After blowing in about five loads to completely fill the interior of the former, the doors are raised and the former pulled forward about 2 ft. Another two or three loads are blown in to fill the former and it is again pulled forward another 2 ft. A chain used for towing is hooked so the former and blower move forward as a unit on each move without having to be repositioned or realigned every time.

An oscillating elbow supplied by the manufacturer automatically moves the blower spout back and forth to uniformly refill the former each time it is pulled forward.

Kools notes that a high speed blower, such as his company's KB 60, powered by a tractor with a 540 rpm pto will drive silage into the former at about 96 mph. The Model KB 1000 Kools blower, operated at 1000 rpm, kicks out silage at 143 mph.

Cost of the former, complete with hitch, transport wheels and oscillating kit for the blower (but not including the blower itself) is right at \$6,750.

For more details, contact FARM SHOW Followup, Kools Brothers, Box 2157, Appleton, Wis. 54911 (ph. 414 734-2697).



Precision depth control is key feature of 7 ft. wide Moore drill which plants 18 rows spaced 4 3/4 in. apart.

PLANTS WITH PRECISION IN SOD, STALKS OR STUBBLE

Best New No-till Drill We've Seen

FARM SHOW was on hand to watch the first U.S. field demonstration of a new, highly touted European no-till drill that won the "Machine of Outstanding Merit" award at England's 1976 Royal Agricultural Show.

Our conclusion after seeing it work: "It's one of the best new no-till drills we've ever seen!"

We watched inventor and manufacturer Sam Moore, of Ballymoney, England, demonstrate his Moore Uni-drill in pasture sod, and in a freshly-harvested corn field. Following a single disking of the stalks and residue from a 150-bu. crop, the drill planted soybeans in narrow 4 3/4 in. rows with precision accuracy at a constant depth of 1 1/2 in.

Probably the most unique feature of the new drill, now being marketed in the U.S., is its simple, exclusive method of manually transferring weight from the coulters to the disks, or vice versa, to provide precision depth control in sod, stubble, stalks or other conditions.

The Uni-drill has an overall working width of right at 7 ft. and plants 18 rows spaced 4 3/4 in. apart. "We think it can be the only planter many farmers will need to plant all their crops. They can use it to seed alfalfa and other small seeds for hay or pasture, for all kinds of small grains, and to plant corn, soybeans and other row crops", Moore explains. "Drill openings can be plugged to provide the desired row spacing."

Suggested retail cost of the new Moore Uni-drill is right at \$7,000.

Other key design features, in addition to the exclusive precision depth control mechanism, include:

- Highly accurate seed metering mechanism which sows from under 2

lbs./acre of legume seed to over 400 lbs./acre of cereal seed. Seed rate is controlled by hand-turning a micrometer screw.

- Hydraulically controlled land wheels lift the machine in and out of the work position, as well as for transport. Road width is 9 ft.

- The drill provides once-over seeding without cultivation in sod, stubble or stalks, yet works equally well in cultivated soil with the added advantage of rolling directly over the sown seed, creating ideal conditions for optimum seed germination.

- The drill is easy to maintain since the only soil wearing parts are the disks and seed tube holders. Few spare parts are required since all 18 press wheel rollers, disks and their bearings are the same. All springs, seed tubes, coulters, nuts, bolts, etc. are cadmium plated for rust prevention.

- The drill gives good performance on uneven terrain, thanks to its spring mounted discs and coulters which follow ground contour independently. They also ride over stones.

- Seed germinates better because there is no "smearing" of slits opened up by the discs. Rollers compact the soil directly over where the seeds are planted.

- The multi-purpose seed box is suitable for sowing all types of seeds and seed mixtures, including alfalfa, clover, all types of grass and grass seed mixtures, wheat, barley, oats, rye, peas, sorghum, maize, rice, soybeans, corn and other crops.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moore Uni-drill, 5 Donald Drive, Orinda, Cal. 94563 (ph. 415 254-8360).