"A key feature for all our users is time saved," says Bergman. "Based on feedback, we project a 25 percent time saving with the Muskox over other snowblowers."

Innovative Snow Blower Works In Forward And Reverse

The bidirectional Muskox snowblower is as effective in reverse at blowing snow that's being dragged away from structures as it is in moving forward into drifts. Its drag-and-blow design fits skid steers, Bobcat Toolcats and mini loaders. The snowblower largely eliminates the need to shovel in front of garage doors and other structures, saving time cleaning driveways and parking areas and significantly improving operator comfort.

"We keep the operator in the nice, warm cab," says Adam Bergman, Muskox. "That reduces the potential for slipping and falling, an industry risk."

The Muskox snowblower is designed with a hood that can be tipped forward to drag snow backward while feeding it into the blower's augers. With the hood raised and moving into deep snow, it chews through drifts and packed snow, even ice. A 6-in. blower fan with serrated edges breaks up ice and snow chunks, while a low-profile chute ensures visibility.

The Muskox is easy on the surface being cleared, whether in forward or reverse. A UMHW poly glide plate protects gravel, grass and soft surfaces when moving forward. Partially rotating the Muskox presents a carbon steel edge that sheers and clears ice. Fully rotated for back drag, a rubber edge on the hood offers surface protection while providing squeegee-like action. A leveling wheel facing the operator clearly indicates status, moving from blowing to shearing to back drag as the unit rotates.

Bergman's father Ron developed the first prototype in 2017 after retiring from a career in R&D at Arctic Cat snowmobiles. After a patent search, the Bergmans filed their patents and spent the next three years refining the concept. They added the glide plate and the leveling wheel and prepared to take it to market.

"In 2020, I put a video of it on YouTube, and it went viral," says Adam. "It was like catching lightning in a bottle. Within a week, we had our first dealer. Today, we have Muskox snowblowers in 36 states and every province in Canada."

Muskox snowblowers are available in three sizes, starting at $12,900. The 60-in. 25-60 dual auger is designed for use on sidewalks and trails with smaller machines. The 78-in. 25-78 is sized for personal driveways and is available in single and dual auger styles. The dual auger is also suggested for commercial snow removal. The 90-in. 25-90 dual auger is suggested for larger machines and bigger jobs.

The company is considering adding an 84-in. model. Early adopters were a mix of commercial and private users. Bergman notes that municipalities, school districts and colleges are a growing user segment.

"A key feature for all our users is time saved," says Bergman. "Based on feedback, we project a 25 percent time saving with the Muskox over other snowblowers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Muskox, 33 S. 3rd St., Ste. D, Grand Forks, N.D. 58201 (ph 218-288-1905; info@muskoxmn.com; www.muskoxmn.com).

Battery-Powered Log Splitter

The RYOBI 40V HP Brushless Kinetic Log Splitter delivers up to 12 tons of splitting force with more power than an 80cc gas log splitter, making this an alternative option to smaller gas-powered splitters.

It can split hardwoods like white oak, red oak and hickory. Its kinetic design yields a 2-second cycle time. With up to 150 splits per charge, it's perfect for splitting chopped-down or fallen trees into smaller pieces of firewood.

Its heavy-duty steel frame stores vertically. The splitter is part of the RYOBI 40V system, which allows any 40V battery to work with any 40V product. It's backed by a 5-year manufacturer's warranty.

"It's easy to use, portable and doesn't have hydraulics or gas fumes to mess with. It splits wood easily, and the upright storage saves space. The battery lasted over two hours and split upwards of 40 logs. I would recommend this splitter as an alternative to small electric splitters or equal-sized gas-powered splitters," says one review on the RYOBI website.

Reviews also mentioned that the number of splits per charge varied, and it sometimes needed to be reset after a missed split on a too-large piece.

Battery-powered log splitter can do up to 150 splits per charge.

The splitter costs $900, and the kit with a 4Ah battery and charger included costs $1,000. Both are available online and at Home Depot stores.

This portable unit may be a good option for those who don't split a lot of wood, can't justify a larger gas splitter or don't want the hassle of axe splitting.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RYOBI, 100 Innovation Way, Anderson, S.C. 29621 (ph 800-525-2579; www.ryobitools.com).

Two large compartments hold up to 1,100 liters of seed and fertilizer, while the smaller front and rear sections hold 100 liters of product.

Front Hopper Delivers Up To Four Different Products

Sky Agriculture has introduced its Progress TF, the crop seeding market's first front-mounted hopper capable of managing up to four separate products controlled by a single interface. Two independent air circuits distribute the four commodities, allowing farmers to sow at two different soil depths.

The unit attaches to the front of a tractor using a standard 3-pt. hitch system and requires a hydraulic connection to power a turbine to transport seeds to the rear. "The benefits of a front-mounted seed hopper include optimized weight distribution on the tractor to reduce soil compaction, improved visibility to monitor rear implements, and easier filling and hopper access," says Sky Agriculture General Manager David Guy.

Two large compartments hold up to 1,100 liters of seed and fertilizer, while the smaller front and rear sections hold 100 liters of product. "Multiple compartments allow simultaneous sowing or distribution of several products (e.g., seeds and fertilizers) while keeping them separate to prevent unwanted mixing," Guy explains.

The unit achieves record flow rates of 60 kg/min. thanks to a pressurized pneumatic circuit. Unlike competitors' tanks, the TF hoppers aren't pressurized, eliminating the need to ensure the lids seal perfectly.

A cab-mounted control system monitors the flow rate of seeds, fertilizers, and distribution anomalies.

The unique seeder features two side cameras for optimal visibility and safety on roadways and intersections when traveling.

Sky Agriculture made the Progress TF compatible with its entire range of seed drills for maximum versatility. They also offer seeding lines from 3 m (9.8 ft.) fixed to 6 m (19.7 ft.) folding to match any farm need and field size.

Manufacturing is completed in France at the Sky Agriculture factory. They currently have dealers in Canada.

Guy estimates the base price of the Progress TF front-mounted hopper to be approximately $29,000 USD.

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DIY Rock Rake

After having two rock rakes custom-built for use on his 230 Excavator, Dale Gunn spent a fraction of the cost building his own. His goal was a similar rake at a lower price for his one-ton digger.

"The custom-built ones were impressive with every other horizontal bar removable," says Gunn. "I added extra vertical bars secured via sleeves over the extra horizontal bars. When I removed them, it allowed larger material through. Because the removable bars rattle around, they tend to let jammed rocks break free and fall through."

Gunn's shop-built rock rake.

The two commercially built rock rakes cost about $8,500 NZD, just under $5,000 USD. He estimates making his own ran about $1,000.

"I built it for sifting river run gravel, and it does a pretty good job with topsoil as well," says Gunn. "I've used many different types over the years, and this combines all the better features."

He started by cutting out cardboard templates and outlining them on 10 mm mild, flat steel. Complete, the bucket measures 900 mm (360 in.) wide, 400 mm (16 in.) high and 600 mm (24 in.) deep. The 10 by 100 mm toolbar is slightly wider at 920 mm, as is the 50 by 75 mm frame box. The ears and ears base plate plus caps at pin holes were fabricated from 15 mm steel.

Gunn used 20 mm rounded bar for the 920 mm long horizontal rods, which he mounted at 100 mm intervals. The 10 mm ribs and rib plates were spaced 110 mm apart. The steel plate ribs with rods penetrating them alternate with 10 mm solid box steel welded to the horizontal rods.

"It would've been nice to have removables in the bucket, but then I would've had to go to a much higher grade of steel to retain strength," says Gunn. "That would have added considerably more cost. With this spacing, I can easily screen concrete gravel."

He used high-tensile steel for the teeth set at the ends of the ribs and rib plates. "The teeth are not likely to wear down any time soon," says Gunn. "They can easily be refurbished with a grouser-type bar if required."

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