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Specialty Auger Keeps Grain Flowing

Put an end to clogged sweep augers with Superior Grain Equipment's Blockbuster. The specially designed auger is mounted over the center gate to keep grain flowing.

A reversing gearbox and centrifugal clutch allow it to spin freely in one direction while powering the sweep auger and wheel in the other, enabling efficient, continuous operation.

The Blockbuster is available on Superior's Premium Unload Systems. The reversing mechanism allows the center sump to be placed in neutral or reversed. Operated from outside the bin, the Blockbuster can be engaged independently of the sweep,

eliminating the need to enter the bin to clear blockages. This also eliminates the need to work around running equipment inside the bin, improving worker safety.

The Superior Premium Unload System is available in 11-in. and 13-in. options for 15 to 60-ft bins. The Blockbuster is priced at around \$900 and is available directly from the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Superior Grain Equipment, 5069 168th Ave. SE, Kindred, N.D. 58051 (ph 866-822-9145; info@superiorbins.com; www.superiorbins.com).



Improvements included a linear actuator option for seed gate control and a camera mounted on the seed gate, enabling calibration from the cab.

Front-Mount Seeder Upgrades

Wenzinger Farm's front-mounted seeder (Vol. 41, No. 3) is better than ever. The Wenzingers continue to promote BMC Agricola seeders for their accuracy, even with the smallest cover-crop seed. Upgrades have made them even more efficient and user-friendly.

"The pendulum-style seeder is a lot more accurate than other seeders," says Gerry Wenzinger. "Ours is one of the only ones with a hydraulic motor on the fan. You can adjust the spread on the go."

A major improvement they made was adding a linear actuator option for seed gate control. A camera mounted on the seed gate allows calibration from the cab. It focuses on the gate and an attached 16-in. ruler. Once calibrated, the operator can press one of two buttons to select the desired opening, and at the end of the field, press the third button to close the gate.

Wenzinger prefers the actuator with its three programmable settings for its convenience, and his customers agree.

"With the hydraulic cylinder, you have to get off the tractor to adjust a turnbuckle to change settings," says Wenzinger. "Since we started offering the linear actuator, we haven't sold another hydraulic controller."

Once the actuator has been calibrated and the seed gate is open, the camera can be rotated a quarter turn to monitor the seed as it flies out. A second camera mounted in the seed tank allows the operator to monitor for needed refills.

The Wenzingers offer five models, the 500, 600, 800, 1250 and 1650, ranging from 17 cu ft to 58 cu ft. All components are either stainless steel or fiberglass, eliminating potential rust or corrosion, he adds.

All but the largest model can be front-mounted. For tractors not equipped with a front 3-pt., Wenzingers make adapters.

"We build a front-mount hitch out of 3/8-in. steel for mounting the seeder," says Wenzinger. "Each one is custom-designed to match the tractor's suitcase weight box or with arms for the side of the tractor frame."

Contact Wenzinger for pricing. The seeders have a base price; however, the linear actuator (front or rear-mount), the fan's hydraulic motor, and the cameras are priced separately.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wenzinger Farms, 14-406 County Road Y, New Bavaria, Ohio 43548 (ph 800-972-7919; rswenz@henry-net.com; robert@wenzingerfarms.com).

Hydrant Kits Selling Better Than Ever

Seppmann Enterprises' Hydrant Assist Kits (HAKs) are even more popular today than they were when FARM SHOW covered them in 2012 (Vol. 36, No. 6). The kits have proven to be a good sideline to their well-drilling business, according to Jody Seppmann.

"When we first introduced the kits, we thought it was amazing when we sold 50 a year," says Seppmann. "Now we're well over 1,200 to 1,400 per year. We sell a lot to plumbing wholesalers as well as online. We still have them all made in a Wisconsin foundry."

For those unfamiliar with the device, it eliminates the need to dig out a faulty hydrant. Seppmann notes that hydrants can fail for many reasons, including broken components, freeze-ups, plugged drain-back holes, and split, corroded or bent standpipes. Even a damaged or missing rubber plunger or O-ring can result in a costly, time-consuming dig.

Calling in a backhoe or excavator to dig up the hydrant can get costly fast. That's without considering likely damage to landscaping or concerns about buried utilities.

Once the HAK coupler is installed on the water line, replacing or repairing a hydrant is easy. Simply turn the hydrant to disconnect it from the coupler.

The company offers multiple kits to fit various hydrant models. With their Universal Check Valve, you don't need to shut off



Device eliminates the need to dig out a faulty hydrant.

the water when replacing a hydrant with a livestock waterer or a quick-fill pipe for full flow. If freezing or vandalism at a remote location is a concern, simply remove the hydrant for the winter and cover the riser pipe.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Seppmann Enterprises, 53910 207th Military Rd., Mankato, Minn. 56001 (ph 507-625-2790 or 800-901-3216; office@seppmannenterprises.com; www.seppmannenterprises.com).



Deardorff argues that with proper preparation, application and post-application, a finish should resist rust and corrosion for the life of the equipment.

Paint Expert Shares New Book

Jim Deardorff has been sharing his knowledge on protecting finishes on farm equipment with FARM SHOW readers for more than 35 years. He has provided information for more than 14 stories, starting with Vol. 16, No. 4.

Over the same period, he has published more than 100 articles in national journals covering the industry. "Paint," his new book, reviews the evolution of the paint industry over the past 100 years. It also lays out the reasoning behind what he calls the Lifetime Coating System (LCS).

"In recent years, design engineering and material advances have dramatically increased product life. This has created a serious performance gap between paints and the surfaces they protect," says Deardorff. "I predict the future of paint will depend on a new generation of engineered maintenance programs designed for assets with a design life of 25, 50, 100 years or more."

Deardorff suggests that the paint industry developed to meet industry demands, not those of the equipment operator and owner.

"Today, corrosion costs to the U.S. economy are \$1.2 trillion annually," says Deardorff. "Experts estimate 25 to 30% of this amount (\$250 to \$300 billion) could be solved by improved painting practices."

Deardorff cites two reasons for writing the book. The first is to tell the story of his

own journey in the field. He divides LCS into five generations. These include the introduction and improvements in black lights and fluorescent compound technology, the combination of these technologies with specially formulated finishes, and the use of predictive and prescriptive programs, including root cause analysis of failures. Finally, he discusses products and practices to reduce the impact of weathering, abrasion and attacks on coating life.

The second reason he wrote the book concerns the future.

"The goal of LCS maintenance programs is to prepare the coating industry for the economic and environmental challenges of the 21st Century and beyond," he says. "As long as a coated surface is available for inspections and repairs, absolute corrosion prevention is possible."

Deardorff is very appreciative of the many calls and letters he has received from FARM SHOW readers over the years.

"As my thank-you to them, I'll be happy to send a free copy of 'Paint' to any who request it," says Deardorff.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Superior Coatings Co., 205 McCormick St., Chillicothe, Mo. 64601 (ph 660-646-6355; info@classicblast.com; www.classicblast.com).