New "Affordable" Grain Bin Monitor

You'll like the price tag on the new "affordable" grain bin monitor produced by Boyd Electric. You can equip six medium size bins, for example, for only $134 per bin, giving you "the lowest cost peace of mind money can buy," says Dave Berkes, distributor. "What's more, you eliminate the cumbersome and dangerous chore of having to periodically climb to the top of bins to check stored grain for signs of spoilage. Besides saving on spoiled grain, you can save electricity costs by aerating only when necessary."

"Researchers report that most grain spoilage begins in the top 2 feet, prompting us to design a single temperature-sensing probe to monitor grain temperature," says Berkes. Individual probes are inserted into the top of each bin after it is filled. The probes are wired to a central monitor that operates on 110 volts, which it transforms to 24 volts DC, which may be wired by anyone. Checking grain temperature in up to 11 bins is as simple as flipping the dial and noting actual temperature of stored grain in each bin on the monitor's digital readout.

The weather-proof monitor can be located wherever it's handiest—in the house, garage or shop. Because of the design of the system, the bin temperature reading isn't affected by distance between the bins and the monitor," says Berkes. Individual probes are 38 in. long and are pre-wired with a weather-proof junction box on the end. The monitor retails for $295, and the probes for $95—$85 if you buy 6 or more.

Aqua Sweep

New from Titon Equipment Co. is Aqua Sweep, a rotary cleaner driven by your high pressure washer. "It cleans away dirt and grime from driveways, sidewalks, or slatted floors in hog barns or anywhere you have packed dirt or grime. A built-in trigger on the Aqua Sweep hooks onto the hose from your pressure washer. It will work on any pressure washer but works best in conjunction with washers able to generate at least 3.5 gpm and 2,500 psi," says sales manager Alex Bilodeau.

The circular Aqua Sweep deck is 16 in. in diameter. Two nozzles on its underside spin on a height-adjustable arm to blast dirt and grime off the surface being cleaned. "It makes your washer twice as effective as a surface cleaner," says Bilodeau. "It's equipped with a 4-way handle system which provides low clearance to fit under most overhangs."

Sells for $495.


Feed Meter

"It's a low-cost way for livestock and poultry producers to accurately monitor feed consumption from bulk bins," says Easy Systems of its new EZ Consumption Meter. Priced at approximately $1,500, it doesn't require equipping your bulk bins with load cells. You simply wire it to the starter motor circuit of your feed distribution system. It monitors the amount of feed exiting the bulk bin. This value can be transmitted to a PC system for graphing and adjusting rations for actual feed intake. It stores up to 400 days of feeding information, telling you how many pounds of a ration are left to feed, and average daily consumption on a per head basis for the last 24 hours, the last 3 days, and the last 7 days.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Easy Systems, 511 2nd Ave. S.W., Trimont, Minn. 56276 (ph 800-397-9736).

"Quality V-Belts at Economical Prices"

"We can save you 10 to 40%," says Agri-Belts International, new farm market supplier of "quality V-Belts at economical prices."

"If we don't have a scarce replacement belt in stock, there's a good chance we can have one custom made," says Randy Freeman, vice president. "We've saved the day for many farmers who've had to prematurely retire combines and other equipment for want of a drive belt no longer available from equipment dealers or salvage yards."

"Our policy on warranty coverage is to let the customer determine what's fair. If he's operating in tough conditions and a belt he bought from us breaks, he may not be entitled to a free replacement. On the other hand, if he told us the belt broke unexpectedly under normal operating conditions, we'd honor his request for a free or reduced rate replacement."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Belts International, Randy Freeman, Vice President, 3465 Lost Nation Road, Unit 15, Willoughby, Ohio 44094 (ph 1 800-561-2358, or 216-953-2358).

Buzzer Sounds When Grain Tank Is Full

When John Freeland, Dalton City, Ill., mounted a grain tank extension on his Deere 6260 combine, he was no longer able to see the tank when it was full. He solved the problem by mounting a homemade monitor on the extension that causes a buzzer and light to go on inside the cab when the tank and extension are full.

Freeland used a 6 by 12 in., piece of light gauge sheet metal to make a hinged flap that mounts on a length of angle iron. The angle iron bolts to a hinged 2 by 4 board at the top of the extension. As grain pushes against the flap, it closes a spring-loaded switch mounted on the angle iron. The switch is connected to a buzzer designed for a shaft speed monitor and to a 12 volt light inside the cab. It's also connected to the electric clutch that operates the combine header so that when the tank gets full, he can shut off the header without having to turn on the buzzer.

"I've used it for two years with no problems," says Freeland. "Commercial grain tank monitors sell for $150 to $200. I spent less than $10 to make mine. My only expense was for the buzzer. I already had the push switch. The flap can be adjusted up or down or on the angle iron depending on the type and moisture content of the grain. For example, wet corn piles up at a different angle than dry soybeans."

"The grain tank extension is too high to clear my shed door so I had to hinge the 2 by 4 so I can fold it down when I put the combine away in the shed for winter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Freeland, Rt. 1, Box 90, Dalton City, III. 61925 (ph 217-874-2045).