

PULL THEM WITH AN ATV, PICKUP, GARDEN TRACTOR, OR EVEN HORSES

Mini Manure Spreaders Catching On Fast

Not everyone needs the capacity of a big, expensive manure spreader. With an increasing number of farmers working at off-farm jobs and keeping just a few head of livestock, many advertisements for compact mini manure spreaders have been showing up recently in farm publications.

These mini spreaders can be pulled by an ATV, small tractor, pickup, or even a horse. They don't have all the "bells and whistles" that tend to drive up prices on bigger models. But big farmers buy them too, for use around calf pens and small feedlots.

The biggest benefit of a mini spreader is that they eliminate the need for wheelbarrows and manual hauling and greatly reduce stall cleaning time. The small size lets you pull the spreader right into any barn. In some cases the sides can be removed so you can use them to spread dirt, sand, compost, leaves, grass clippings, etc.

Here's a review of what's available.

Mill Creek

This company offers seven models ranging from 15 to 128 bu. capacity. Overall length ranges from 9 ft. 3 in. to 13 ft. 9 in. They're available with either pto or ground drive. Most models come with a no-rot poly floor that's guaranteed for 20 years. The company says its model 15, at only 6 bu. capacity, is probably the "world's smallest manure spreader". It's designed primarily for people



Mill Creek's 6-bu. spreader.

who have only one or two horses and need to clean the stall(s) frequently. They don't need a lot of capacity and like the idea of a lower-priced machine.

Model 25, with 15 bu. capacity, fits through a 4-ft. barn door and weighs only 325 lbs. It can be pulled by a 10 hp or larger garden tractor. Convenient pull controls let you engage and disengage the spreading mechanism without leaving the tractor.

Model 125, the largest model at 128 bu. and weighing 1,425 lbs., can be pulled by a 30 hp or larger tractor.

A horse-drawn conversion kit is optional on some of the ground-drive models, converting the spreaders into four-wheeled units that can be pulled by two horses.

By adding an optional 12-volt battery-operated cylinder, model 50 can be converted to an all-around utility dump cart that's ideal for yard work and other chores where dumping is required. Operates directly from the tractor seat.

Other options include an endgate to keep manure from spilling out the back when driving across parking areas or on roads. A 12-volt battery controls the endgate on most models. Also optional are upper beaters which help break up manure that's been packed down and needs to be broken up for even application on fields. Extension sides, which add 50% capacity, are optional on two of the models.

The company offers a handy "Compact Spreader Buyer's Guide" that offers guidelines on which spreader will be best suited for your operation, based on the type of farm you have and the number of livestock you need to take care of.

Contact: Mill Creek Mfg., 2617 Stumptown Road, Dept. DHJ, Bird-In-Hand, Pa. 17505 (ph 800 311-1323 or 717 656-3050).

E-Z Spreader Mfg.

All of this company's models are ground-driven. They're available with either steel or rubber wheels and can be pulled by either horses or tractors. They come with an orange plastic box and an auto steering front axle. Capacities range from 30 to 75 bu.

The company's spreaders are actually successors to the old New Idea 10A horse-drawn spreader which was produced up into the early 1970's when the company went out of business. Amish entrepreneurs rescued the spreader from oblivion. E-Z still buys some parts from New Idea.

The new models have a rear axle that's a full 1 3/4 in. thick to handle heavy loads. The bearings are larger and grease fittings that



E-Z Spreaders are based on old horse-drawn models from New Idea.

were once hard to reach now have extensions that make them more accessible. The wood on the box has been replaced with tongue and groove planks of decay-resistant recycled plastic.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-Z Spreader Mfg., 1951 Co. Rd. 70, Sugar Creek, Ohio 44681 (ph 330 852-2666).

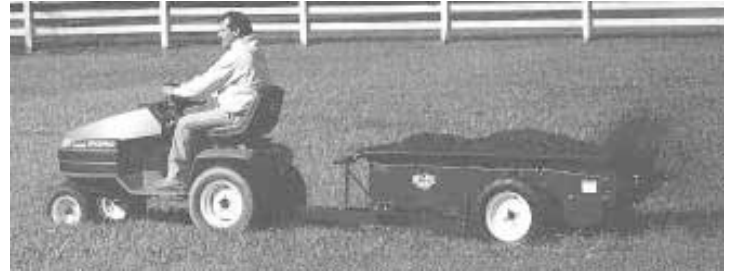
Country Manufacturing

The company offers two ground-driven models with 25 and 75 bu. capacity. The smaller model is only 46 in. wide and can be pulled by any 10 hp or larger tractor. It weighs just 250 lbs. and has a bed that measures 6 ft. long by 2 1/2 ft. wide by 1 1/2 ft. high. It mounts on high flotation tires. The spreader's drag chain ratchet is driven by one wheel while the rear beater is driven by the other wheel.



Sideboards on the Country spreader can be removed to use for other hauling jobs.

An 18 hp tractor is required to pull the 75 bu. model. It mounts on big 27-in. lugged tires. They provide the traction to drive the beater and drag chain even in snow and mud. A unique double beater bar spreads evenly and is fed by a continuous motion drag chain for smooth discharge. There's individual rope pull clutching - one for the beater and one for the drag chain. There are guides built into



This 25-bu. spreader from Mill Creek is ideal for use behind a garden tractor or ATV.

the back of the bed to accept a removable endgate, which eliminates rear spillage during transport. The side boards can be removed to convert the spreader into a trailer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Country Mfg. Inc., Box 104, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019 (ph 740 694-9926).

H & S Mfg. Co.

Four models with 50, 80, 125, and 175 bu. capacity are available, some ground-driven and others pto-driven. The boxes are constructed of corrosion resistant galvanized steel and have a bonded poly floor that re-



H&S 50-bu. ground-drive spreader is fitted with lugged tires.

duces main apron drag and power needed to move the load. The beater is chain-driven while the main apron is driven by a simple adjustable ratchet drive mechanism.

The 80-bu. model is available with an optional rear trip pan. The 125-bu. model is equipped with a large diameter beater that provides an even spread pattern. A fine spread pan is optional. The 175-bu. model is available with an optional hydraulic end gate.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, H&S Mfg. Co., Inc., 2608 S. Hume Ave., Box 768, Marshfield, Wis. 54449 (ph 715 387-3414; fax 384-5463).

Fuerst

Fuerst manure spreaders are available in ground-driven or pto-powered models and are made from corrosive-resistant steel. Capacities range from 23 to 74 cubic ft. The 23 cu. ft. model is small enough to fit inside a



Fuerst spreaders can be ground or pto-driven.

48-in. door. It weighs only 325 lbs. A lever on front is used to engage the ground-driven beater and apron chain. The larger M500 and M900 pto-driven models are designed for use behind small tractors and pickups. Claw-type beaters provide excellent shredding and distribution of all types of organic materials.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fuerst, 1020 South Sangamon Ave., Gibson City, Ill.

60936 (ph 800 435-9630; fax 800 782-0126; Website: www.fuerst-bros.com)

Pequea Machine, Inc.

Pequea offers both pto and ground-driven models with capacities ranging from 50 to 110 bu. A conversion kit for horse-drawn use is optional on the smaller models. On models 50 and 70 the beater can be removed so the spreader can be used to haul dirt, sand, compost, leaves, grass clippings, etc. Mod-



Model 85 horse-drawn spreader has a seat for driver up front. Pequea also offers many other spreader models.

els 85 (85 bu.) and 110 (110 bu.) are available with four steel wheels and a steel seat with the operator platform up front, allowing them to be pulled by horses.

The spreaders have a high density polyethylene floor that won't rust or rot and is guaranteed for 20 years. On ground-driven models a large, heavy duty spreader drive gear transfers power to the spreader. The company says its three-beater design works great with compacted manure. An optional hydraulic endgate is available for sloppy loads. T-Rod chain, standard on models 85 and 110, provides twice the wear and three times the fatigue life of other chains, says the company. It's said to resist stretching and requires less maintenance and fewer adjustments.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pequea Machine, Inc., 3230 East Gordon Rd., Gordonville, Pa. 17529 (ph 717 768-3197; fax 8380).



A 15 hp. tractor is all that's needed to pull Tebben's 50 bu. spreader.

Tebben Enterprises

Tebben's all-steel Filly spreader holds 50 bu. and measures 12 ft. long, 5 ft. 3 in. wide, and 3 ft. 9 in. high. The beater and apron can be chain or hydraulic-driven. It can be pulled by a 15 hp or larger tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tebben Enterprises, 10009 Hwy. 7 SE, Clara City, Minn. 56222 (ph 320 847-2200).