

Steiger Expert "Overwhelmed" By Response To Article

By C.F. Marley

After FARM SHOW wrote about John Beery's Steiger tractor service last year (Vol. 24, No. 5), he was inundated with calls from more than 30 states and several Canadian provinces.

"No advertisement would have brought in that much response," says Beery, who got into the Steiger business in 1986 when he started taking in "orphan" Steigers that needed service or repair. The business has grown rapidly to the point where it now includes his son Michael, daughter Lisa, and his wife, Julie.

Beery's operation is strictly "hands on" with no fat in the operation. Most of the repairs and grunt work are done by John or Michael. In fact, they're so busy they're looking for another competent mechanic to help out.

The Berrys salvage, recondition, overhaul, repower, and also lease out Steiger tractors. They have done work for Steiger owners all over the country, but have never advertised their services. "A lot of smaller farmers can't justify the cost of a big new 4-WD tractor. I'm doing everything I can to help my customers keep their old Steigers instead of buying an expensive new machine."

John and Michael are especially valued by customers for their ability to repair the earliest Steigers ever built. Case-IH, which took over Steiger, has no parts or service for the oldest tractors. Yet, repaired, they will last forever, the Berrys say.

The Berrys supply parts and go out on



John Beery's Steiger business now includes son Michael, daughter Lisa, and his wife, Julie.

location just about anywhere to repair tractors or clone parts. Some farmers send in parts to show the men exactly what they need.

John notes that because the early Steigers are built so rugged, the owners often don't need parts. They just need advice, which he often gives on the phone.

The Berrys work closely with another Steiger expert, Ben McIntyre, a Steiger parts specialist in Harwood, N.Dak. He sells and makes parts for old and new Steigers, often at prices much lower than Case-IH.

Beery recently took on a new venture. He's impressed with the Finnish-built Valtra Valmet tractors and has bought two of them for rent or lease. He says they're much less expensive than comparable Deere or Case-IH tractors and of similar quality.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Beery, 620 N. 500 E. Rd., Bement, Ill. 61813 (ph 217 763-2311).

Rebuilt Cutterheads Boost Capacity Of Forage Harvester

When Orvil Klassen, Mountain Lake, Minn., needed more capacity from his Deere 5400 forage harvester about 10 years ago, he decided to replace its J-knife cutterhead with a 64-knife drum.

"It was our design, but similar to the one Deere began using in the 1980's with 40 knives," Klassen says. His objective was to run the cutter without a screen and maintain the same size cut, while increasing capacity. Once he made the conversion, he found capacity had increased by up to 50 percent.

Other farmers who heard about his new cutterhead wanted one like it, so Klassen began manufacturing drums with 40, 56 and 64 knives for the older 5000 series Deere harvesters. "The 40-knife drums are mostly used for dairies, the 56 for beef finishing operations, and the 64 for feedlots feeding earlage, which is chopped-up ears - cobs and all," he says.

Klassen is now experimenting with a 28-knife replacement drum for dairy farmers who operate 5000 series harvesters with kernel processors. "It results in a longer cut for silage," he says. "We're also building a 40-knife drum to replace the 48-knife drum in the Deere 6000 series cutters."

Klassen also buys used Deere 5000 and 6000 series forage harvesters to rebuild and sell. "It has been a good sideline business, complimenting our farming and cattle feeding operation," he says. "We run the machines in our operation, so we have a good idea of what needs to be modified or improved."

In addition to cutting drums and rebuilding



To get more capacity from his Deere 5400 SP forage harvester, Klassen replaced the J-knife cutterhead with a 64-knife drum.



Klassen now manufactures drums with 40, 56, and 64 knives for the older 5000 series Deere harvesters.

choppers, he also rebuilds sharpeners, shear bars and kernel processors.

The 40-knife drum with replaceable shaft sells for \$3,500. Klassen keeps a variety of drums available in a range of prices.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Orvil Klassen, O.K. Enterprises, 55617 County Road 13, Mountain Lake, Minn. 56159 (ph 507 427-3520 or 507 427-2050; fax: 507 427-2055; Website: www.ok-enterprises.com).

"Big Mouth" Shovel Cleans Manure Up Fast, Easy

Horse owners are welcoming a new invention by Joseph Berto, Shady Cove, Oregon, that saves time and effort while cleaning stalls.

The patent pending "Big Mouth Shovel" has a wide front edge and a "stepped" design that picks up a whole pile of road apples (horse manure) in one sweep, and then keeps them from rolling back out.

Berto says the feedback he has received from customers has been remarkable. People have told him it's "indispensable," or "I couldn't live without it," or "I love my shovel." One person said, "I wait until others are done with it just so I can use it." Large stables are buying multiple shovels because there are fights in the barn over who gets to use it, Berto says.

"With ordinary shovels, we found that it usually takes three or more tries to completely pick up a pile of horse manure because the piles are usually a bit wider than the shovel, and the road apples, being round, tend to roll back out, requiring another sweep. If a man can be sent to the moon, we figured somebody should be able to develop a more efficient method. That's why I created this new shovel."

Although the shovel profile is huge (it has been referred to as a "whale of a shovel"), it weighs only a few ounces more than a regular shovel, yet carries nearly twice as much manure as a regular grain scoop. It is constructed partly from ABS plastic.

Berto and his family have 12 to 16 Andalusian horses on their own ranch, and have found that the new shovel saves them between 15 and 45 minutes per day.

"This equates to fewer steps and cleaner



"Big Mouth Shovel" has a wide front edge and a "stepped" design that's ideal for picking up piles of horse manure.

pastures, too!" he says.

The "Whale Shovel" costs \$39.95 but those customers who visit Berto's Website can earn a special discount. Shipping and handling runs about \$10.00 in the U.S. and slightly higher to Canada.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joseph Berto, Equi-Tee Farm and Fence, 6539 Rogue River Drive, Shady Cove, Ore. 97539 (ph 541 878-4112; 800 221-9113, E-mail: information@manureshovel.com; Website: www.manureshovel.com).

"Sparrow Gun" Makes Nighttime Hunting Easier

R.D. Elder has had a lot more success knocking off sparrows and other pest birds at night since he clamped a flashlight under the barrel of his pellet gun.

He simply made a wood clamp that fits around both the barrel of the gun and his flashlight. One bolt holds the two pieces of the clamp together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R.D. Elder, 2037 E. 2800N, Blue Mound, Ill. (ph 217 692-2593).

Flashlight clamps under barrel of pellet gun.



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