



The latest silage bagger is all-hydraulic and comes with 180 ton bags.

FOUR MACHINES ON THE MARKET

“Silage Stuffers” Catching on Fast

Four competing companies are now offering “silage stuffer’s”, those popular new machines which stuff silage, haylage and other feedstuffs into airtight plastic bags.

Silopress, headquartered at Sioux City, Iowa, first introduced the low-cost sealed storage “stuffing” concept from Germany about 20 years ago. About five years ago, a group headed by several former Silopress distributors spun off to manufacture and market the Ag-Bag machine, manufactured in Astoria, Oreg., by the Ag-Bag Corporation.

Now, several former Ag-Bag distributors have teamed up to manufacture and market their own competing machine called the Bag-All. The fourth company competing for a share of the growing “silage stuffer” market is the Max-Pac, manufactured by Agri-Marketing Development, Elkhart, Ind. It was first featured in FARM SHOW a year ago (Vol. 6, No. 2, 1982).

“Our new machine features an exclusive direct drive hydraulic system and has 20% more capacity (1½ tons per min.) than competing models,” says Terry Miller, American Bag-

All’s general sales manager. “By replacing all drive belts and chains with hydraulics, we have few moving parts and are able to offer a full year warranty on both the machine and our bags.”

Price tag on the new Bag-All is \$24,000 for the hydraulic model (pto-driven hydraulic pump with direct drive into planetary gears). It’s also available in a non-hydraulic model (pto-driven gearbox).

Other features include hydraulic cable rewind, ¾ in. galvanized aircraft cable, variable speed rotor, and fifty ¾ in. tines for better compaction (60 lbs. of high moisture forage per cu. ft.).

American Bag-All is offering standard 180 ton plastic bags (9 ft. dia.) with a black inside liner (4½ mil) and a white outside liner (5½ mil). They retail for \$300 each. A larger Bag-All for stuffing 12 ft. dia. bags will be introduced later this year, according to Miller.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, American Bag-All Inc., 107 Spring Hill Lane, Lebanon, Penn. 17042 (ph 717 274-2225).

“Half Price” Silage Stuffer

That “half price” silage stuffer we told you about in FARM SHOW a year ago — The Max-Pac — is “coming along great”, according to Maynard Good, manufacturer.

“We had 10 prototypes in the field last year and have built 25 additional machines which will go to the field this spring.” Good told FARM SHOW two weeks ago.

The Max-Pac is priced at \$9,700, which is well below half the cost of competing machines.

“One of our suppliers goofed up when fabricating the auger flighting so we ended up taking back two of the 10 prototypes. That problem has been corrected. We also had some quality control problems with our supplier of plastic bags. We solved that problem by switching to a new supplier.”

A key feature of the Max-Pac

is its simplicity. “It takes two men to mount the plastic bag but, after that, one man does it all,” says Good. “The machine, 8 ft. wide, hooks behind a tractor (60 hp or larger) for towing to the work area. Once there, you simply start it up and start filling — no backstops, cables, relocating, or gearboxes, and no trial and error. Anyone who knows how to unload silage into a hopper can fill plastic bags with the Max-Pac. This is a hungry machine. It takes forage faster than a blower. A two-row chopper can’t keep up.”

Good notes that an exclusive feature of the Max-Pac is a blower that keeps the bag inflated during filling: “The machine moves silage into the inflated bag with a compression process. It produces both a direct and a lateral thrust to give a complete, even pack, inside the



Purple color is visible on plants for 1 to 2 days after use.

Spray Tracer: 100% Spot-Spray Accuracy

“It’s a great way to cut the cost of chemicals,” says Roger Underwood who, along with a partner, has developed a “Spray Tracer” that lets you see immediately whether you hit target weeds.

Spray Tracer is available as either a purple or red coloring. The dye has been cleared with the EPA as safe to both crop and humans and, added at the rate of a pint per 30 gal. of spray mix, it shows up vividly wherever the spray is aimed.

“Spot spraying in soybeans is the most common use but we’ve found the idea works when spraying pastures, ditches, farmsteads, fence rows and any other applications where spraying a specific area is important. It helps eliminate overlapping and saves time because you know exactly where you’ve been and what you

have left to treat,” says Underwood.

The spray color will be visible on plant surfaces for 1 or 2 days. Extreme heat and sunshine will dissipate the coloring faster. Spray Tracer sells for around \$14 a quart and treats 100 to 120 acres, depending on the use.

Why not add commercial food or clothing dyes to chemicals yourself?

Underwood says that food dyes are transparent and would not show up if used. Clothing dyes, on the other hand, are opaque like Spray Tracer and could be used. However, clothing dyes are diluted with a carrying compound and would be far more expensive to use, he points out.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Becker-Underwood, 701 Dayton Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010 (ph 515 232-5907).

bag. Since there are no cables, there is no chaffing of the bag and no concern if the bag is not perfectly straight. When the bag is full, you’re all done. There is nothing in the machine to clean out. Just tie the bag.

“We’ve packed about one ton per foot of bag but moisture content will cause that to vary,” Good points out. “This isn’t as much as claims I’ve heard for other machines but, when a Max-Pac filled bag is opened, the feed stands in a good, vertical wall. We think our less-dense pack is an advantage. After all, feed packed as hard as concrete, that has to be hacked out with a loader or chain saw,



does not make the best feed,” explains Good.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AgriMarketing/Development, Maynard Good, 23257 Co. Road 18 East, Route 7, Elkhart, Ind. 46516 (ph 219 875-5697).