



Big 17,500-gal. tank is designed to be parked in the field where semi trucks can load it with manure. A pto-driven pump on front can be used to load and unload.



A Balzer vacuum boom tank draws a load from the field storage unit. Load time is 3 to 4 minutes using an 8-in. load hose or tube.

Portable Manure Storage Tank Keeps Spreaders In The Field

"It allows the manure applicator to stay in the field instead of running back and forth between the field and farmstead all the time. That saves time and also leads to a better public perception about manure transport," says Mark Van Hyfte, Balzer Inc., about the company's new portable field storage tank. It was on display at the recent Farm Fest show near Redwood Falls, Minn.

The 17,500-gal. tank is designed to be parked in the field where semi trucks can load it with manure. The unit rides on two rear wheels and has loading ports on top. A pto-driven pump on front unloads manure from semis and is also used to load spreader tanks. Hydraulic jacks on front and back of the tank,

which plug into a tractor's remote outlets, are used to raise the tank onto its wheels for transport. In the field, the tank rests flat on the ground with the wheels up in the air.

"We built our first unit a year ago and displayed it for the first time at the recent World Pork Show. It has really generated a lot of interest," says Van Hyfte. "One reason for the interest is that hog and dairy farmers often have to haul manure two or three miles away. Instead of running two or three spreaders back and forth on the road all the time, you can get by using only one spreader and two or three semi trucks to fill the storage tank. The spreader can keep going in the field, which makes it much more efficient.

"Commercial fertilizer prices keep going up, which makes manure more valuable all the time. But as animals become more concentrated in small spaces, farmers have to haul manure farther away to fertilize their crop ground."

Another advantage is public perception, says Van Hyfte. "People aren't as likely to complain when they see semi trucks on the road instead of manure spreaders."

The tank can be fitted with various pumps, discharge booms, ports, and agitation. "If you want, you can bypass the portable field storage tank and use a portable load stand that makes use of the same pump," says Van Hyfte. "The load stand is 15 ft. off the ground

and is equipped with a 20-ft. long hose. The tractor and spreader pull under the load stand for filling. Some of our vacuum manure spreaders are equipped with a pump and a hydraulic arm with a hose on it. The arm is operated from the tractor and is used to reach into the top of the storage tank for loading."

The portable field storage tank sells for right at \$24,000, depending on options.

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A Farm Of Many Enterprises

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

Kevin Loe attributes his family farm's success to a willingness to always try new things. He and his wife, Lori, together with their married daughter, Angela Rose, operate Triangle Farms Inc. and Silver Falls Seed Co. in the foothills near Silverton, Ore.

Their location varies in elevation from 300 to 1,700 ft., which - combined with irrigation - allows for a great diversity of crops. The Loes produce daylilies, some native nursery stock, specialty grain-seed, and over 50 other different seed crops including vegetables, flowers, herbs, forages, and domestic and native grasses. The family also grows 10 acres of asparagus annually for the fresh market.

The 2,000-acre operation is made up of over 500 acres of wildflower production, 1,200 acres of different seed crops, and 300 acres of creatively managed marginal land.

"Triangle Farms now encompasses many different enterprises," Kevin explains. "We've specialized in producing wildflower seeds for about 20 years, and this is still our main business, but we also have a lot of untillable acres. For many years, we used this acreage solely for grazing cattle, but when that was no longer profitable, we changed things."

The Loes now use that land to produce and sell Christmas trees, timber, and to graze up to 800 Boer goats and about 20 head of beef. The goats are sold for meat and the two breeds complement each other. The goats control brush and blackberry vines, while the cattle clean out the grass. The result is an attractive, park-like woodlot.

Spanish Boer goats are in demand by certain ethnic groups for meat, Loe points out. He says the goats have worked out well with meat demand growing steadily, but the herd must be managed properly to prevent damage to the tree plantations.

They use Pyrenees-Maremme sheepdogs to watch over and protect the herd from

predators.

A couple of years ago, Kevin took classes at Portland State University to increase his knowledge of growing native plant seeds, and has since added natives to the portfolio.

Flowers and grasses that are specifically native to the Pacific Northwest are available from very few other sources because they're so region-specific. These are in high demand from cities, the forest service and the Bureau of Land Management for re-seeding projects, according to Rose.

"We also do contract seed production for other companies," she says. "We produce, process, blend, package and sell our own seed, and that's rare in this business."

Rose, who co-owns Silver Falls Seed Co., with her mother, recently started producing custom flower seed packets for people to give out as business promotions or as gifts. She uses her creative photography and design skills to come up with eye-catching packaging. She also offers seeds from the family farm for sale retail on the Silver Falls Seed Co. website.

The family says growing wildflower seeds is made feasible by the fact that their large tracts of land are located compactly and offer good access to their large equipment (swathers, combines, etc.). This limits manpower and makes harvest economical. Loes also use a variety of seed cleaning equipment, before weighing and filling every seed packet by hand. This hand work is not something the larger seed companies can do, and is a big reason for their premium quality products.

More than half of the wildflower seeds this family sells can be fall-planted in the Oregon region.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Silver Falls Seed Co., P.O. Box 885, Silverton, Ore. 97381 (ph 503 874-8221; info@silverfallsseed.com; www.silverfallsseed.com).



The 2,000-acre operation is made up of over 500 acres of wildflower production, 1,200 acres of different seed crops, and 300 acres of creatively managed "marginal" land.



Seeds are for sale on the Silver Falls Seed Co. website and other retail outlets. The Loes also produce custom flower seed packets for gifts.



Untillable land is used to produce Christmas trees and to graze up to 800 Boer goats and 20 head of beef. Pyrenees-Maremme sheep dogs protect the herd from predators.

