

### They Buy Used Harvestore Silos

Silo Supreme Inc., and its sister company Silo J.M. Lambert Inc., are Canadian-based companies that buy and sell second hand Harvestore silos.

According to sales rep Francois Dumont, Silo Supreme Inc., purchases silos from farmers in the eastern U.S., dismantles and transports them to its headquarters in Drummondville, Quebec. Then Silo J.M. Lambert Inc., refurbishes and rebuilds them on farms in Canada.

"We transform them into top unloading silos for our customers, the majority of whom are in Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes," Dumont explains. "Top unloading silos are very effective and low-cost, requiring less than \$500 per year to operate. On the other hand, bottom unloading silos cost farmers between \$4,000 and \$6,000 per year for maintenance and replacement parts. Bottom unloading silos are best suited for high moisture corn."

To "un-build" a silo, the company's crew tears it down sheet by sheet, using a set of

jacks – in the reverse order of how they were built. Silo Supreme has done this with structures up to 110 ft. high and 31 ft. in diameter.

The workers load the dismantled silo pieces onto trucks and they're transported to the Silo Supreme yard to be checked over. Then they're taken to their new home. While resurrecting the structure one piece at a time, the crew can make them a bit bigger or smaller if necessary.

A 20 by 80-ft. silo takes the company 3 to five days to disassemble and then five to seven days to rebuild, including the time that's required to clean between the sheets and apply new silicone.

"We pay good money for large silos - 25 by 60 ft. and higher - because the heavy (thicker) sheets are in demand when we enlarge a silo," Dumont says. "In Quebec, we build them up to 25 by 100 ft."

The company has overseas markets for some of the dismantled structures. They've sold some to Finland, France and Denmark, according to Dumont.



A pair of Canadian-based companies buy and sell second hand Harvestore silos, transforming them into top unloading silos.

"They're a very good structure. The life of those silos is many generations," he adds. "We've taken some down that are 30 years old and they look like new when we rebuild them."

The company also builds new concrete block silos, and does on-site repairs for existing, operational silos, both Harvestore and concrete block silos. Dumont says that buy-

ing a reconditioned Harvestore silo is a little bit more expensive than putting up a new concrete silo.

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### New Way To Wash Livestock

While it looks like a carpet cleaner, a Canadian company's livestock washing system has a critical difference. Its patented technology removes dirt from the bottom up, instead of from the top down like most carpet cleaners.

The Anivac Animal Bathing System uses about 90 percent less water than conventional washing, is fast, mess-free (you stay dry!) and can be done in winter with only common sense precautions.

The Anivac's comb-like nozzles probe into the coat and sit directly against the skin, where they spray pressurized, oxygen-based cleansing fluid.

The spray action washes the skin of the animal first, pushing the dirt up and into the vacuum force of the wand, and then it washes the animal's coat as the solution is being vacuumed up by the wand.

The vacuum pulls the majority of the water from the coat, so the animal is left only damp to the touch. This substantially speeds up drying times and leaves the work area dry, according to the company.

Amazingly, Anivac uses less than 2 gal. of water to wash an average horse, and the job is complete in only 15 to 20 minutes. Since it doesn't require a floor drain, the system can be used either indoors or outdoors, or virtually anywhere that power can reach.

Anivac is available in three models. The portable "EcoWash-n-Vac" is a 1.6-gal. unit with a 12-ft. hose that washes one horse per fill. It can also serve as a dry vacuum, and sells for \$1,499 (Can. and U.S.) plus S&H.

The "Pro-Heat" 13-gal. model is also portable, has a 20-ft. hose, and holds enough water to wash four to six horses. It has an in-line water heater, which heats water as it's used. The Pro-Heat sells for \$6,295 (Can. and U.S.) plus S&H.

The third model is the "Olympic Central System," which is a built-in unit. It runs virtually silently and can also function as a dry vacuum/shop vac. This unit is priced at \$8,750 (Can. and U.S.) plus S&H.

Anivac systems are currently being marketed in 36 countries, through a network of dealers. All American inquiries are being handled by eZall Technologies, Inc., which holds the distribution rights. New



Anivac bathing system looks somewhat like a carpet cleaner. However, it removes dirt from the bottom up, instead of from the top down like most carpet cleaners.



Comb-like nozzles probe into the coat and wash the skin, where they spray pressurized, oxygen-based cleansing fluid.

dealers everywhere are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anivac Corporation, 484 Plains Rd. E, Unit 8, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7T 2E1 (ph 866 887-1994 or 905 690-4416; fax 905 690-6042; www.anivacfirst.com). In the U.S., contact: eZall Technologies, Inc., Box 1030, Grove City, Ohio 43123 (ph 877 879-3925; fax 614 277-2500; info@ezall.com; www.anivacfirst.com).

### He's Growing Arctic Char In New York

Fish farming takes time, money and there's a steep learning curve. Gary R. Green of Farmersville, N.Y., has paid his dues over the past few years and he has high hopes that his farming venture will start paying off soon.

By starting small and educating himself along the way, Green has been preparing himself on a part-time basis for the past seven years, to tap into the high-end restaurant market for Arctic Char. He also plans to sell breeding stock to other fish farmers through his licensed hatchery.

Green was a dairy farmer who left the business to take an off-farm job. He currently has between 2,000 and 3,000 Nauyuk Arctic Char, but has capacity for about double that amount, thanks his six large tanks. He calls his operation "Gary's Arctic Char."

The Nauyuk variety comes from Lake Nauyuk in the Northwest Territories. Green purchased eggs from a hatchery in Whitehouse, Yukon, for 19 cents each.

"The Nauyuk are mature and produce eggs at about five years old. Mine are now six years old and this is my second year milking eggs. At this age, the fish weigh seven to eight pounds. Milking for eggs is done once a year in the fall," he explains.

Green will hatch the eggs and grow those fish for the restaurant market. In about three years, he says they should be between 2 and 4 lbs. and ready to sell.

When he first got into the business, Green had Frasier Arctic Char, a species that matures quickly - at 2 years of age, but they only reach about 2 lbs.

"I decided I liked the Nauyuk better because they grow bigger and therefore more markets are open to them," he explains.

In his fish farm development, Green has been receiving guidance from John Foster, an aquaculture and natural resources professor at Cobleskill College (about 30 miles from Albany, N.Y.). Foster is also actively raising fish, so his knowledge and experience have been helpful.

"John Foster and I are the only ones I know of in New York State that have Nauyuk Arctic Char. He also has some Frasier, but I don't anymore," Green says.

Another excellent resource person has been Gavin Johnston at Salt Springs Island, B.C., according to Green. Johnston has provided a lot of advice over the phone and email, in

addition to authoring a book on Arctic Char aquaculture.

With tanks at his own place and also on his parents' farm, Green uses both well water and gravity-fed natural spring water for the fish.

"A key to all of this is our water temperature. We're taking advantage of our cold water. It's 48 to 50° F, which is the same temperature as the Arctic water is during the growing season for these fish," Green says. "I chose to raise the type of fish that would fit into our water temperature, not try to alter our water temperature to fit the fish."

An important part of fish farming is to not allow a large temperature variation in the water, so Green says he must sometimes provide shade in the summer and insulate the tanks in winter. Putting hay over the pipes that run between the tanks provides insulation. He says he uses "enough flow-through" that he's had very little problem with freezing.

Other equipment required is aeration, automatic feeders, settling tanks and filters.

Green saved about \$10,000 in set up costs by converting several old stainless steel cheese vats from a factory into fish tanks. Since they're rectangular, the tanks require special water circulation. He has some that are 16 ft. by 4 ft. by 2 ft. deep and others that are 35 ft. by 5 ft. by 16 in. deep. Green also has four round fiberglass fish tanks that are 6 ft. in diameter by 5 ft. deep.

The fish are fed commercial pellets that Green purchases at a local feed store. A combination of automatic and manual feeding is used, so that he can check on "which fish are eating what," and he can watch the drains closely during spawning time. This is because they can get so caught up in spawning that they don't eat and the feed can clog the drains.

A 16-oz. fillet of fresh Arctic Char retails for \$29.99.

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