

Rock Hard Concaves Made In Farm Shop

Extended wear concaves made from armor plate grade steel are being fabricated in a Saskatchewan farm shop. Wildfong Enterprises isn't just any farm shop. After a 2-decade hiatus, a third generation of the family is building and selling replacement combine parts.

"We introduced our new concaves for the 2014 harvest," says Danielle Wildfong, whose brother Russ is the company engineer. "We've started building air foil chaffers and feeder chains, too."

The Wildfong's grandfather Bert and father Rick had been building concaves and other replacement parts since the 1980's, but sold the business in 1995. When they went to replace concaves on their own combines several years ago, they got sticker shock. Russ questioned his dad about building their own. After seeing only one other high-wear unit on the market, the family decided to re-enter the business.

The result was the STS series concave (\$700) with an improved design for Deere

combines. That was followed by the Vortex Concave (\$1,000) for Case IH rotaries. Concaves for other models are to follow.

The abrasion resistant AR400 steel is sent off-farm for laser cutting before concaves are assembled and welded in the farm shop. The concaves feature a smooth continuous bar with customizable wire spacings, depth and radius added at no charge.

"Our steel is twice as hard and 4 times as strong as ordinary concaves," says Wildfong. "It can handle rocks and sand."

Wildfong's lightweight airfoil chaffers are reported to be half the weight of conventional top chaffers. They are specifically designed for a cleaner harvest.

Feeder chains have a unique slat shape to feed any crop. They are made from 557 heavy-duty, American-made chain.

Price was key to the family's decision to re-enter the concave market. OEM replacements cost more and are not made with hardened steel. Comparable high-wear units are considerably more.



High-wear concaves are fabricated from armor plate grade steel. "It's twice as hard and 4 times as strong as steel in ordinary concaves, so it can handle rocks and sand," says Russ Wildfong.

Parts can be ordered direct from the company online or by phone. The new company is currently looking for dealers.

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Sask., Canada S0G 0V0 (ph (Rick)306 734-7721; (Russ) 306 260-2833; russell@wildfongenterprises.com; www.wildfongenterprises.com).

Tester Quickly Locates Electric Fence Problems

John Ferris started selling the Power Probe electric fence tester in 1999 and says the product is still gaining new customers after all these years. "When I first saw and used it I couldn't believe how easy it was to find problems so they could be fixed immediately," Ferris says. "When the Power Probe is touched to a fence and there's a problem, one of two arrows light up at the top of the hand-held device. If the arrow pointing left lights up, the problem is to the left. If the arrow pointing right lights up, the problem is to the right. A person just keeps following the fence and testing until the problem is found. If you can access the fence from your vehicle or an ATV, you can take the reading without leaving the seat."

The Power Probe is a small hand-held device about the size of a mobile phone. It doesn't have any wires or electrical connectors. It's powered by a standard

9-volt battery and even has a low battery life indicator. The waterproof and patented device has won numerous awards for innovation in the U.S., Canada and Australia, where it was invented.

Ferris says customers across the U.S. and Canada tell him the device saves a lot of time. "I had a rancher in California tell me one of his hired hands was spending 2 days on foot, horseback and with his ATV to check all their fences," Ferris says. "When he started using the Power Probe he could check those same fences in just a few hours."

In addition to finding shorts or poor connections, the Power Probe can accurately check, within +/- 50 volts, the grounding system for voltage. "If animals aren't drinking from waterers or tanks, you can touch the Power Probe to the tank and see if stray voltage is causing the problem. You can also check the metal gates, metal buildings

or water pipes," Ferris says.

Ferris says the \$99 device should be in the tool kit of anyone who has an electric fence on their land or farm. He says the Power Probe works on electric polywires, ropes, tapes, nets and electrifiable vinyl horse fences and wire fences with any level of electric voltage. "There are other current detectors on the market, but the Power Probe is the easiest to use and the most effective," Ferris says.

Ferris also offers a bundle of free advice based on his many years of fencing experience. He says, Farmers and ranchers are mistaken if they think an uncharged fence will deter animals even though it's been previously charged. We know for a fact that animals don't detect the charge of the fence by touching it; they detect it from the ozone and 'electrical field' that a charged fence emits. If that ozone or charge is missing, animals will likely go through or under the



Battery-operated tester quickly lets you know which part of your electric fence has a problem.

wire."

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A set of overlapping rubber "ear corn savers" off an old cornhead bolt individually to mower deck, allowing Phillips to adjust flaps individually.

"Corn Saver" Mower Deck Deflectors

Doug Phillips replaced the deflector chute on his Deere riding mower with a series of rubber "ear corn savers" off an old corn head. "They look like mud flaps hanging there. The whole point is they're flexible so they won't get bent," says Phillips.

The corn savers bolt individually to the deck with 1/2-in. flathead bolts, allowing Phillips to adjust the flaps individually. "I pull the flaps forward or backward one at a time to control the grass flow," says Phillips. "Pulling the flaps back raises them up out of the way on top of the deck frame, and pulling them

forward lowers them close to the ground.

"The flaps hug the side of the deck, whereas the original metal chute deflector extended out to the side and was getting bent up all the time."

A stationary flap hangs down in front to protect all the flaps and is held in place by a plastic tie.

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Ray Young converted his 2-wheeled wheelbarrow with poly tub into this wooden "flatbed" that'll handle tougher hauling jobs.

"Flatbed" 2-Wheeled Wheelbarrow

The poly tub on his 2-wheeled wheelbarrow didn't stand up to heavy use, so Ray Yount of Kellogg, Idaho, converted it into a "flatbed" that can easily handle the toughest hauling jobs.

He removed the tub and used 2 by 4's and 2 by 6's to construct a platform over the handle shafts, adding a 1 1/2-ft. high wood retaining wall on front.

"I had been using the wheelbarrow to haul

60-lb. concrete retaining wall blocks while doing terrace work around my home, but lifting the blocks in and out of the tub caused it to split," says Yount. "I thought something more open with a beefier platform would take more abuse."

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