



Pushing on toe portion of foot pedal controls forward movement, and pushing down on heel portion controls reverse. Pushing down farther either way controls speed.



The operator can also control the machine by pushing a pulley on the arm rests alongside the seat.

Zero-Turn Foot Pedals Less Tiring, Give Better Control

You'll like this new foot pedal system for zero-turn mowers that puts a lot less strain on shoulders, arms and back than hand levers.

"With the Ergomower concept, you can use your feet, your hands, or both," explains Harold Newcomb, Ergomower. "Everyone who tries it loves it. I tell people, see it and you believe it; try it and you'll buy it; use it and you're hooked."

Newcomb explains that the reduced stress is all about leverage or the lack thereof. With standard zero-turn levers, you're constantly pulled forward, leveraging the body against the footrests. With the Ergomower, pressing

against the added foot pedals pushes you back and into the seat with no leveraging stress.

Each foot pedal rotates on a steel rod connected by other rods to the drive units on either side of the mower. Pushing on the toe portion of a foot pedal controls forward movement. Pushing down on the heel portion controls reverse. Just as with hand levers, pushing down farther either way controls speed.

Newcomb's shortened hand levers use an armrest design alongside the operator's legs. Instead of grabbing a tall lever and pushing it forward, the operator simply pushes down on

the hand rest at the front of the short lever. To activate the reverse transmission, simply lift the arm up or press down with the forearm or elbow on the rear of the short lever.

"I use the foot pedals to control the mower and the short hand levers to fine-tune control, especially when going over rough ground."

Newcomb notes that the foot pedals need very little pressure exerted on them. The weight of the foot and leg on the pedal are almost enough to activate them.

"I've adapted Badboy, Swisher and Cub Cadet zero-turns to foot pedals and short hand levers," says Newcomb, who is attempting to

license or sell the patent to a company.

"A foot controlled zero-turn is great for spraying. I use my feet to control speed and direction, leaving my hands free for the spray wand," relates Newcomb. "I've also used it with a Cyclone Rake to pick up leaves. I just drive along like I'm sitting in an easy chair."

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Machine injects pressurized hot water and a softening agent to the underside of hay windrows, reducing leaf shatter and loss.

Adding Hot Water Makes Better Bales

Harvest Tec is making better bales by treating over-dry alfalfa with hot water under pressure. The new system is an update on their original Dew Simulator (Vol. 27, No. 2) for arid hay producers introduced 16 years ago. It injected a cold-water mist with a softening agent into windrows to reduce leaf shatter and loss.

"Our original system still works, but the introduction of steam injection by a competitor raised the bar," admits Bryant Henningfeld, Harvest Tec. "However, we avoided the complication of on-board boilers by developing a system that uses water heated under pressure to 240 degrees instead of steam."

Henningfeld emphasizes that both steam and the pressurized hot water do a good job of softening the hay evenly. The Dew Simulator is designed to rehydrate alfalfa windrows from as low as 6 percent moisture back to 14 to 16 percent. It injects its moisture in a separate trip ahead of the baler.

"We feel our system offers more flexibility for those operations that prefer other types or multiple types of balers," says Henningfeld. "In highly evaporative conditions, the baler

may follow right behind the Dew Simulator. If possible, we recommend baling 10 to 15 min. later for maximum penetration."

As with their original machine, a wing-mounted reel is equipped with 65 18-in. long tines on 5-in. spacing (85 tines is an option.) The tines deliver the pressurized, heated water and softener to the underside of windrows, releasing it upward into the hay.

The main chassis of the Dew Simulator carries the pto-driven water pump and 2 in.-series, diesel-fueled water heaters. Water is pumped from a trailing water tank (not included) through the heaters to the reel. Harvest Tec recommends a minimum tractor size of 70 hp., such as typically used for raking.

Suggested list price for the new Dew Simulator is \$67,000. Based on improved quality and added weight from increasing moisture 4 percent, harvest value is projected to increase by \$14,400 per 1,000 tons of alfalfa.

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Snow removal tool consists of 2 pieces of metal siding attached at right angles to the end of a long pole.

Amazing Snow Removal Tool

Matt Huver's brother-in-law Dennis Seline (nseline@q.com) sent us photos and a video of a tool Matt made to easily remove deep snow from the roofs on his farm buildings.

It consists of a long extendable pole with two pieces of 1 1/2 by 3-ft. metal siding attached to the end at right angles.

Standing on a step ladder, he pushes the pole into the snow so the metal "snow cutters" cut the snow loose, causing it to fall off the roof in big chunks.

It works fast. You almost have to see the video at www.farmshow.com to believe it.

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