Volcon Grunt electric motorbike can run 75 to 100 miles on a single charge of its 2.0 kWh battery.

Electric Motorbike Perfect For Farms

Texas-based electric motorsports company Volcon has released the Grunt, an electric trail bike with swappable batteries.

The Grunt gives you up to 75 to 100 miles of range on a single charge. The chain-driven fat tires deliver a smooth ride no matter the terrain. With its high torque motor, the Grunt can power through steep and muddy trails without a problem thanks to its lightweight 330-lb. frame and low seat height.

The Grunt's 2.0 kWh battery will charge from empty to full in just 2 hrs. on a standard 120-volt outlet. The bike itself includes room to store a spare battery pack (purchased separately) so you can swap it out in minutes.

This bike's electric throttle has three power configurations: Stroll, Explore, and Sport. Choose Stroll for gentle acceleration, Explore for a balance of acceleration and range, and Sport for the most aggressive driving.

The bike itself is built with a tubular steel frame complete with upside-down front forks, a rear shock, and oversized tires for optimal traction. It includes a single front disc brake and a single rear disc for total control even at top speed. The Grunt can be paired with a ride control app that makes it possible to monitor its performance from your phone.

Designed to be an approachable off-road vehicle, the Grunt maxes out at 40 mph. It offers a nearly silent ride and runs without gas, gears or a clutch, making it easy to master for even novice users. But for the youngest drivers, Volcon sells the Runt, a smaller-sized version of the Grunt.

Pricing for the Volcon Grunt starts at $7,995, and it is available for purchase at authorized Volcon dealers. Contact the company to get the specifics.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Volcon E Powersports, 2590 Oakmont Dr. Ste 520, Round Rock, Texas 78665 (ph 512-400-4271; www.volcon.com).

Duct Tape Marks Newborn Calves

By Heather Thomas

One winter a few years ago we had severely cold, windy weather while calving a large herd of cows. We brought many of the calves into the barn to thaw out and warm up. We'd get them warmed up and full of colostrum before taking them back out to their mothers.

In order to make sure we never had a mix-up or confusion as to which calf was which, we started putting a piece of duct tape on their backs to tell them apart.

We didn't want to use ear tags because some of the ears might have already been frozen so the calves could lose their ear tips.

We wrote the mother's number with a marking pen on the duct tape. Made it quick and easy to identify each calf. The duct tape stays on well and it was often still in place a week or more later.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467 (ph 208-756-2841).

Extra Seed Box Added To Air Drill

Luke Risch likes a challenge and adding a small-seed seed box to a big air drill was a good one. Risch does custom metal work out of his one-man shop in western Wisconsin. When a friend wanted to seed alfalfa at the same time he was planting oats or wheat with his Deere air drill, Risch took on the challenge.

"He wanted a separate unit bolted over his grain drill with outlets mated to the OEM seed tubes," recalls Risch. "The goal was to hold up to 14 bags of alfalfa seed for planting his largest field. I started designing the seed box and worked down from there."

The seed box had to fit between the folding wings of the 30-ft. air drill and over the OEM seed tank without impacting existing wiring and hoses. This limited its size and shape. Risch designed it to taper over the large OEM seed tank that is behind it on the air drill.

He ended up with a 48-in. long by 24 in-high seed box. The top is 36-in. wide, tapering to 8 in. at the bottom. Cross members on the inside of the box reinforced it for the eventual uprights.

Risch went with 14-ga. hot rolled steel for the box and 1/4-in., 2 by 2-in. steel tubing for the uprights that attach it to the air drill wing supports.

Risch's seed box and brackets mount on a Deere air drill.

"I had a good solid frame to work with," says Risch. "It has a big cheater plate that the wing lift rams are fixed to with two stops for the wings. It is heavy-duty and easy to build from."

Once he had the seed box and its supports in place, he began working downwards. Whenever possible, he worked with OEM parts, like the adjuster and the two staggered rows of seed cups installed at the bottom of the seed box.

Rubber seed hoses run from the cups to a sleeved manifold that can be pulled away if the seed tubes plug and need to be cleaned out. From the manifold, seeds drop by gravity into a second set of tubes that each mate with OEM seed cup tubes for even distribution in the airflow across the width of the drill.

Risch added a sprocket to the ground drive for the air drill. Roller chain connects it through a series of sprockets and shafts to the adjustors on the two rows of alfalfa seed cups. The bottommost shaft has a cogged handle, allowing the operator to disconnect the drive to the seed box when it's not in use.

"I installed electric shutoffs on the uppermost cross shaft that drives the two rows of seed cups," says Risch. "They are wired to the right and left shutoffs on the air drill to ensure the alfalfa seed shuts off when the air drill does."

In its first full season of use, the modified air drill planted more than 900 acres of alfalfa with a small grain nurse crop. While it worked well, the owner can see the need for some changes, which Risch is already planning.

Ground drive transfer with electric shutoffs.

"In our part of Wisconsin, they farm steep sidehills," he explains. "I may go with more of an upside-down pyramid shape to the box itself. I'll add baffles to keep seed from piling up on one end of the seed box on steep hillsides."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Luke Risch, Nelson, Wis.

Self-Adjusting Grain Spreader

The Self Adjusting Agnew Grain Spreader spreads grain across the bin, no matter the flow rate or direction of the incoming grain. After more than 20 years and with a network of around 85 dealers, the original model is a fixture in grain bins across the Great Plains.

"When my wife and I bought the business from my dad in 2017, we wanted to find out more about our customers," says Dennis Agnew. "We began asking them if there were things they struggled with on the original design."

The original design had a short throat that directed grain down surrounding chutes and out across the bin. The floor of the throat, with its openings to the chutes, could be preset for a specific flow rate, but then remained static.

Feedback was generally positive with reports of saving about 25 percent on drying time and cost when using the spreaders. The spreaders had been in use for decades without a problem or repair. However, there were some frustrations.

"They told us the spreader didn't respond well to variable grain flows," says Agnew. "The grain had to be carefully centered or the spreader would send it off to one side of the bin. Also, if an auger came in at an angle, the grain went off to the opposite side."

The Agnews responded with changes to the design that they tested in their own bins. After thinking about what might work and multiple prototypes, they came up with the new design.

They created a self-containing spreader throat with an adjustable floor. The floor is held in a closed position by springs with a specific amount of resistance. As the throat captures and holds the initial flow of grain, the weight on the floor counters the springs. It lowers, exposing openings that feed the chutes with grain. As grain begins to flow evenly down all the chutes at once, it cascades around the bin. As the incoming flow decreases, the springs gradually return the floor to the closed position.

Centering the grain is no longer a problem, nor is uneven flow. The angle problem was also solved. Once the grain has backed up in the throat, where it comes from and how fast it comes doesn't matter. It sends a constant amount of grain down all the chutes while retaining a base amount in the container.

"We introduced it at the 2020 Big Iron Show, and we got a lot of positive unsolicited feedback," says Agnew. "A lot of people want to get rid of power spreaders, and ours works. Once people buy one, if they have more bins, they buy more spreaders."

The new Self Adjusting Agnew Grain Spreader is available in two models. The AG50SA is priced at $1,300 for 200 to 5,000-bu. per hr. flow and 28 to 48-ft. bins. The AG150SA is priced at $1,600 and designed for grain flows of 400 to 15,000-bu. per hr. flow and 28 to 65-ft. bins. The Grain Spreader is still available in two sizes in its original design.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agnew Steel, 27901 Moffit Rd., Moffit, N. Dak. 58560 (ph 701-387-4572; agnewsteel@agnewsteel.com; www.agnewsteel.com).

The redesigned Agnew Spreader has a self-contained throat with an adjustable floor which is held closed with springs allowing for even grain distribution.