

Scrapers Keep Mud Off Packer Wheels

Muddy packer wheels are a sure way to vary seed depth, and Devloo Roto Scrapers are designed to keep the mud off. First developed for use on the Devloo farm, the scrapers have become popular add-ons, especially for canola growers and anyone with heavy ground.

"When mud sticks to packer wheels, it lifts the openers out of the ground," explains Mark Devloo. "Seed is placed too shallow or even on the surface. Shallow seed suffers more mortality and requires putting on more. If the fertilizer is left on the surface, more of it outgasses to the atmosphere, with less available to the seedling. We need to maintain consistent seed and fertilizer placement to get good emergence."

Devloo notes that they tried several different types of scrapers before they developed their rotating design and easy-to-install brackets.

"Stationary scrapers can plug up and create enough friction to stop the packer wheels from turning," says Devloo. "This can create ruts, drag piles, and require the tractor to use more fuel."

"Our rotating scrapers clean the wheels with less friction, drag, and wear than stationary scrapers," he adds. "Our scrapers have five times the contact surface of a stationary scraper. As they spin, they're constantly moving the contact surface to a new contact point, reducing heat build-up and wear."

The scrapers are offset 1/8-in. to 1/2-in., ensuring they only spin if mud begins to build up. They're laser cut from 1023 carbon steel, and the brackets are fabricated with high tensile #80 steel. All scrapers are equipped with a double roller 5203 bearing, and all the



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hardware is zinc-plated.

Demand first grew from exposure at trade shows and through limited advertising. Word of mouth is attracting new customers and not just in Canada and the U.S. "We're selling the scrapers in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Kazakhstan, and elsewhere," says Devloo. "Farmers see other farmers using them and see how well they work."

Devloo estimates each scraper takes around 10 min. to install. "Prices vary depending on the air seeder model, but most can be set up for less than \$200 (CAD)," he says. "Just let us know the model, year, width, and spacing of the packer wheels."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Devloo Roto Mud Scrapers, Box 272, Somerset, Manitoba, Canada R0G 2L0 (ph 204-825-7655; rotomudscrapers@live.ca; www.rotomudscrapers.com).



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Add-On Fence Product Helps Protect Livestock

When wolves reappeared in Europe and Germany several years ago, livestock owners needed to find ways to protect their animals. A German fencing company, AKO-Agrartechnik GmbH & Co, part of the Kerbl Group, developed and patented the AKO WolfStop.

"Sheep fences are mostly built with nettings here, so a solution to upgrade such existing nettings was necessary," says Florian Platter, Electric Fencing Product Manager for Kerbl. "The WolfStop is the flexible and safe solution against wolves. It can be used both as dig-under and jump-over protection, as well as to increase the height of the net, keeping wolves at bay."

Made of a strong thermoplastic with fiberglass reinforcement every 9 1/2 in., WolfStop is rigid and durable enough to hold the electrified line in place away from the netting. With an elongated opening, it can be placed in three positions with an additional electrified wire. Near the ground, it prevents predators from digging under the fence. Angled out near the top, it stops animals from

jumping over, and straight up, it adds height to the netting.

Mounted on every post, the WolfStop folds up and locks in place when the netting is rolled up to move.

"Assembling needs to be done only once with the net. This makes it easy to use and an efficient tool to make your netting safer," Platter says.

While initially designed to deter wolves, it also works on poultry runs (placed close to the ground) to keep foxes and raccoons away. For wild hogs, the company sells WildNet, and with the WolfStop electrified line near the ground, it can keep piglets at bay.

The cost for a set of 10 WolfStops is about £23 (\$25 U.S.).

"They're not yet available in the U.S./Canada, but we're already in contact with local dealers to get this solution into the market there as well," Platter says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AKO (info@ako-agrar.de; www.ako-agrar.com/en).



Ellis Bale Feeders RS2 square bale being fed out.

Feed Round Or Square Bales With One Machine

The Giltrap RS2 trailed feeder handles round bales up to 6 ft. or square bales up to 8 ft. It self-loads a bale, picks up a second, and feeds out the first before reloading the outfeed table. The 2-stage hydraulic lift controls bale handling without dropping. A bale can be held within inches of the outfeed table. Once twine, netting, or plastic wrap is removed and stored in an on-board hinged box, the bale is lowered to the bed and fed out.

"Ranchers like the ability to feed either type of bale without stopping to adjust the machine," says Clair Ellis, Ellis Equipment. "A bale processor chews through twine and plastic, and then you have to remove it from the rotor. The RS2 lets you remove wraps first and doesn't over process the hay, which can lose leaves and nutrients."

Ellis began importing Giltrap feeders from New Zealand about a year ago. "We'd sold another brand of feeders and felt Giltrap would be a good fit for the market," says Ellis. "People see the strength and the simple design right away and appreciate the build quality, fit, and finish."

Feeding out the hay is accomplished by a large displacement motor that keeps heavy bales turning on the out-feed table. High tensile, 6 mm, folded channel tine bars with super aggressive, tapered teeth tear and

release even tightly baled material. Fully enclosed shafts reduce the potential for wrapping.

The design of the RS2 uses gravity to keep the bales centered for easy and even feeding. The outfeed works equally well with square or round bales. The optional extended table for handling square bales folds up for transport.

The RS2 is priced at \$24,900. Giltrap also makes a 3-pt. mounted, big round bale feeder. The G2 can be loaded from either side and feeds out in either direction from its stainless-steel bed. The G2X2 is a trailed round-bale-only feeder. Like the RS2, it's self-loading and can carry a second bale. However, like the G2, it feeds out to either side. The G2 is priced at \$9,850, and the G2X2 is priced at \$19,800.

Ellis Equipment will sell the bale feeders direct; however, they prefer to work through local equipment dealers. "We've distributed mostly in the West but are building a national network of dealers," says Ellis.

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They're Building Custom Feed Hoppers

SH Manufacturing skid-mounted feed hoppers are built to match a customer's needs. In the past, the company offered three hopper models ranging from 35 to 85 bushels with set features and limited options. That is changing, according to Steven Haller, SH Manufacturing. New units will be available as base systems with or without previously standard 3,000-lb. scales. Customers can select from an array of options from trailer frames to 3-pt. mounts to bale deck brackets for mounting to a truck's bale deck.

"We wanted to offer farmers and ranchers a more versatile and flexible kind of feed hopper," says Haller. "They can buy a basic hopper and later add options. You can get a hopper just on a skid base. If you don't want a 3-pt. hitch, you don't have to pay for it."

The feed hoppers are designed to accept options later. The skid can quickly be modified with 3-pt. connections or mounted on a trailer frame that's simply bolted to the underside of the skid. The trailer can be equipped with standard tires or ATV tires, depending on the need.

The feed auger can be powered by a 12-volt electric motor or on-board hydraulics if mounted on a bale deck. Haller is working on adding an electric over hydraulic option.

"We could offer a gas engine drive, but it's not cost-effective with a good motor at this time," says Haller. "We don't want to use a cheap off-shore motor just to hold down cost."



SH Manufacturing feed hopper with 3-pt. connection.

SH feed hoppers have a top lid that can be operated from the ground with a handy lever or ordered without a top if desired. A mixing top is also available with its own hydraulically driven vertical auger.

Scales can be added to the three models at any point unless a feed hopper has been ordered with the drop feeder option. It drops feed in rows or piles via a slide gate on the bottom of the hopper.

"We're still determining the range in price with all the options," says Haller. "In the past, our base unit was \$4,000 (CAD) without a scale. The price went up to \$11,000 with all the options."

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