

## Stainless-Steel Meter Housings Resist Corrosion

A Canadian company has addressed the issue of corrosion in OEM airseeder carts by offering 100 percent stainless-steel meter boxes.

"OEM meter housings tend to be aluminum or steel, both of which will corrode, causing many underlying issues," says Chris Voeselek, Agri Stainless Inc. sales manager. "Our stainless-steel housings not only eliminate corrosion issues but also last 10 times the life of original equipment parts."

The meter boxes fit the John Deere 1900 and 1910 series carts along with those built by Flexi Coil and Case New Holland.

"Additionally, we don't just replicate original parts in stainless but address all the gnawing issues farmers get frustrated with," Voeselek says. "Whether it's latches, seals, or something else, we try to improve the design so customers are confident in buying a lifetime part and not replacing pieces every year."

The stainless-steel meter housings are produced and manufactured in Portage la Prairie and are available through multiple dealers in Alberta and Ontario. Agri Stainless is also interested in attracting more dealers in the U.S.

Voeselek explains they try to market their boxes at prices lower than OEM equipment. Even though the cost of stainless has gone up



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by almost 270 percent since 2020, they still sell their housings for less than the original dealer cost.

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While individualized feeding has been difficult in group settings, this process recognizes animals by RFID tags, allows single entry into the feeding unit, and provides the exact nutritional requirements for each pig.

## Advanced Hog Feeding Equipment Now In North America

Longtime equipment producer Big Dutchman has recently developed more technically advanced pig production equipment.

The DryExact Pro mixing system delivers a mixed ration that can be blended with up to 32 ingredients. It's possible to supply numerous individual feed mixes through independent valves for excellent mixing capabilities with high ration accuracy. The system uses a weighed batch mixer with a 70-liter capacity to create specific feed batches for pigs based on age, size, or other factors. Once mixed, feed is delivered by auger to downstream valves and pens.

The Callmatic Pro electronic feeding system is designed for gestating sows in group housing. While individualized feeding has been difficult in group settings, this process recognizes animals by RFID tags, allows single entry into the feeding unit, and provides the exact nutritional requirements for each pig. Stations can be equipped with mineral and medication dosing as well as sorting gates to remove lame or soon-to-farrow females.

A single unit manages up to 60 sows and features pneumatic gates, solid side partitions, and sound-absorbing materials to

reduce noise levels.

The HydroMix Pro is a computer-controlled liquid feeding system for all ages and genders of pigs.

The process uses pumps or air to push individualized rations to desired feeders. It offers the same flexibility as the DryExact Pro, mixing many different rations but using the advantage of water for blending and faster delivery. The equipment is optimal for applications using food by-products configured into rations to reduce costs.

"These key products have been implemented and are currently being used successfully in North America," says Dillon Hansen, North American Sales Representative for Big Dutchman. "Over 50 sites are using the DryExact Pro with the main focus on research feeding. Thirty thousand sows are using the Callmatic system with success, plus a large number of farms have configured the HydroMix Pro."

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Diesel electric driverless tractor featured at Agritechnica by KUHN isn't in commercial production yet.

## KARL The Autonomous Tractor

KUHN officially entered the autonomous tractor field by presenting KARL at Agritechnica 2023.

KARL is a driverless tractor designed to work independently without human intervention and is aimed at arable crop production. An operator creates a work mission and places the robot at the desired location to automatically complete a task.

"KARL is a robotic tractor but not positioned to replace a tractor," says Curt Davis, Director of Marketing and Product Management at KUHN Krause. "It's a power unit designed to operate a fully autonomous system of implements for row crop production."

The unit is 10 ft. wide for easy trailer transport between fields. It uses a hybrid diesel/electric power source with a 175-hp. Volvo engine to run an electric generator. The tractor features either 340-mm. or 450-mm. rubber tracks equipped with front and rear linkages to allow the use of multiple pass implements. Both tracks and implements are powered solely by electricity, creating a smooth drive engagement and precise implement adjustment capability.

The machine weighs 8.5 tons and is designed with both front and rear 3-pt. attachments. Linked tools transmit operational information and adjust parameters to match variable soils and vegetation covers.

KARL is controlled through a mobile or desktop interface. A combination of GPS

mapping, geofencing, real-time kinematic positioning, radar, and LiDAR determine positioning and control the object detection system. Colored lighting bars alert bystanders of operational status and signal the operator if KARL encounters a problem.

Power harrows are the first implement in development, but KUHN promises many more.

The unit is designed to suit any farm size. "To match the operation size to the machine, a farm can add extra units working in unison," Davis says. "We can easily scale with KARL."

Its limited size and weight plus rubber tracks lower ground pressure and minimize compaction, helping control run-off and preserve roots and soil potential.

"We're still in the development and refinement stages, but we're hoping for commercial production within 5 years," Davis says. "We want to ensure all the applications are covered, plus the unit's usability and feasibility are in place."

KARL will initially be produced at KUHN's headquarters in France, with different marketing options, including direct sales, rentals, and leasing being considered.

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Unroller has a removable operator's platform and an optional loading arm with stabilizers and an adjustable fork.

## Round Bale Unroller Cart Allows For Easy Feeding

The I.H. Rissler Round Bale Unroller makes feeding out hay easier than ever. Fully powered by hydraulics, it has a quiet, air-cooled engine. The machine is joystick-controlled, and the independent hydraulic motor drive on each wheel eliminates maintenance to drive chains, sprockets, and bearings. Large chain-driven rollers easily handle large bales, and each roller has a heavy-duty bearing with a grease fitting.

Its features include a removable platform and left and right discharge. Dual air tire swivel casters come standard, while dual hard rubber tire swivel casters are available on request. It fits in many tie-stall barns and works with wet or dry bales. The Unroller also has a removable operator's platform and an optional loading arm with stabilizers and an adjustable fork.

Customer reviews show that Rissler bale unrollers can cut feeding time in half. Others specify that they are unmatched in maneuverability, simplicity, and ease of operation.

Two models are available: the 444 (4 ft. by 4 ft.) and 544 (5 ft. by 4 ft.). Both have a 9-hp. engine with 16-in. tires. While the 444 weighs 1,400 lbs. and has a width of 41 in., the 544 is 1,500 lbs. and 47 in. It's also possible to purchase either as a stationary model powered by tractor hydraulics. The approximate speed range for both models falls between 25 to 45 ft. per min. Pricing varies by dealer and equipment size but starts around \$10,000.

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