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3-Pt. Mount, String-Style Mower

The Ecosprint Between-Row mower from Berti Machine Agricole uses cords to clean up unwanted vegetation in tree and vine rows, as well as fence lines. The Italian-made mower is available with single or dual heads and in multiple models. Hydraulic cylinders move the mower from side to side, up and down, and at an angle. A tension spring allows the mower head to move in and out around the desired stem or post.

The 3-pt. mounted mower is available as the Ecosprint Easy and is powered by tractor hydraulics. Other models are available with two hydraulic pumps powered by the tractor pto. One pump is for the mowing head with its rotor and 16 cord filament sections. The second pump is for the cylinders.

The 2 1/2-ft. long mowing heads are positioned parallel to the ground surface for standard use. However, they can be tilted up to 65 degrees, depending on the model. As the cord filament sections rotate, the cords reach out and shred weeds and grass without damaging tree and vine trunks or stems.

Each of the 16 sections contains a spool of cord that feeds out automatically. The spools can be quickly reloaded by hand or with an optional mechanical winder.

Three height-adjustable steel wheels provide support for the mower at ground level.

They're also available as rubber wheels.

Options include an oil cooler, three and four-wire cable kits for cylinder adjustments, kits for counterslopes with hoses, quick couplings, a joystick, and electric over hydraulic valves.

In the U.S., Cummings and Bricker is Berti's largest distributor, covering the Northeast, south and west to Tennessee and Ohio. The company handles more than 40 specialized equipment lines from domestic and imported brands. Its website allows visitors to filter product searches by industry (agriculture) and power unit, e.g., ATV/UTV, skid steer, tractor, etc.

"We carry the Ecosprint 90-140," says Jason Kelly, Cummings and Bricker. "It's the best fit for the spacing in the vineyards in western New York. It was what they were looking for."

The pto-powered 90-140 retails for \$14,715. Multiple smaller distributors handle Berti products in other parts of the U.S. and Canada. Kelly offered to connect interested FARM SHOW readers to them.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cummings and Bricker, P.O. Box 160, Carlisle, Penn. 17013 (ph 717-249-6720; sales@cummingsandbricker.com; www.cummingsandbricker.com).



Turning compost with a subcompact tractor.

Manure Management Tips For Small Herds

Big livestock operations get the headlines when they have problems managing their manure, but even small herds can have problems. Mary Keena, an Extension Specialist at North Dakota State University, deals with both sizes of operations. All too often, notes Keena, manure management is an afterthought with small herds.

"With smaller operations, people get it all set up for animals, whether for meat, milk or

recreation, and only when they have them do they realize they produce manure and a lot of it," says Keena. "Often, smaller operations are close to city limits or in sensitive areas, whether with neighbors or environmentally."

Keena and Sarah Fronczak, Michigan State University Extension environmental management educator, addressed key elements of manure management for small farms in the May/June issue of Manure



It's estimated only 15 Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractors were built.

One-Of-A-Kind Best 30 Orchard Humpback Tractor

By Cindy Ladage

Every year, Aumann Auctions in Nokomis, Ill., holds its Pre '30 Auction, featuring equipment from before 1930. As part of this event, they have a tractor school that provides presentations and an open house where collectors view the machinery they sell online. Collectors see some items they may never see again, such as the Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractor.

Tom Madden, an attorney from Paso Robles, Calif., presented about building his Best 30 Humpback Tractor and allowed a short interview before he loaded up his one-of-a-kind tractor and took it back home.

"I drove 2,100 miles for this presentation," Madden said. He hauled his tractor from California to Illinois for visitors to view.

Madden has a unique collection that's narrowed to a particular niche of tractors. "I collect pre-1925 California-made tractors," he explained.

His presentation focused on creating his own Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractor. Parts of this tractor include pieces of the original tractor. "There was only one of these tractors until this."

Madden and mechanical engineer and machinist K.R. Hough used the 1914 block from the original, only still existing tractor. Madden estimated that about 15 of these

Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractors were built. Today, only one is left. The block from the original tractor was removed because it had a hole in the side. The existing Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractor is at the California Agricultural Museum, which profiles the collection of Keith Heidrick. The museum is in Woodland, Calif.

Most of the creation work was completed by Hough, who hails from Pendleton, Ind. He studied Mechanical Engineering Tech at Purdue University. Hough owns Traction Engineering, a full-service restoration company that uses the latest technology to restore tractors from our agricultural past.

In this instance, Hough used the original block, a radiator and a seat to create a Best 30 Orchard Humpback tractor. Measurements were made using a 3D scanner. The replica's work started in March 2023 and was completed in May 2023. According to Madden, "The clutch was the hardest part."

He adds that the most interesting thing about this project is "the fact that no one thought it could be done."

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Manager. Keena revisited some with FARM SHOW.

She described people asking her what to do with the manure after purchasing animals. Keena advises people to check with local regulatory agencies about manure management before bringing animals home. Regulations can vary from state to state and by the size of the operation.

"Call your extension agent to verify who you need to talk to and what regulations are involved," says Keena. "Make manure management and storage part of the planning process."

Doing so before you invest in animals and facilities can prevent problems down the road. "You may need someone to come in and clean out barns or pens periodically," she says. "If so, you need to be set up for that."

If manure management is going to be a DIY project, access is still important, as is appropriate equipment. Equally important is budgeting time to manage the manure and having sufficient land to spread it.

Manure storage is likely necessary even if only a few animals are involved. While the quantity produced may allow it to be spread only once every few years, storing it requires paying attention to likely weather conditions before assigning a storage location.

"Where does snow accumulate?" asks

Keena. "Where does water settle?"

She recommends an impermeable base to protect groundwater and surface water. Fronczak recommends three-sided storage with a roof, if possible.

Keena adds that smaller operations may want to consider composting their manure instead of spreading raw manure on fields or pastures. If a custom operator is used to remove the manure, composting it first can reduce costs considerably.

"Composting will reduce the volume by 50 percent and kill flies and other parasites," says Keena.

Keena authored a guide on properly composting manure, which is available on the NDSU website. If you plan to compost, you must have sufficient space to turn the manure.

If an animal owner has more manure than they can use, whether composted or not, there may be a market for it. Keena argues that it's a valuable commodity. She suggests checking with neighbors and produce growers.

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