

Big up-front rotor feeds manure out through deflector which can be adjusted downward to feed into bunks or upward to spread manure in the field.

IRISH MACHINE MAKES BIG SPLASH IN EUROPE AND NOW COMES TO U.S.

“Omni Wagon” Handles Both Feed, Manure

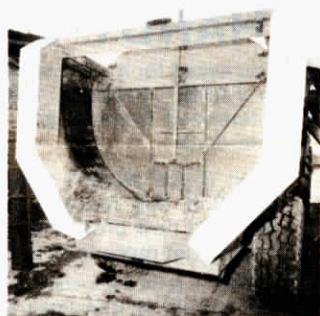
“It’s the first machine of its kind that’ll spread any kind of manure — liquid or solid — and also double as a precision feedbunk feeder able to handle forage, grain or even liquid feeds,” says Gerard Keenan, marketing director for the Irish manufacturer of the new Omni feed and manure spreader wagon.

The machine has caught on fast in Europe where it was first introduced in 1984 and the company is now in the process of introducing it to the U.S. and Canada. They’re actively enlisting dealers and distributors.

The 1,500-gal. capacity Omni wagon uses a large disc powered by a hydraulic ram to move material forward into a large pto-powered up-front rotor which either spreads or feeds material out the upper front corner of the machine. It’ll spread manure out as far as 50 ft., pulverizing any solid chunks that enter the rotor. For feeding, a deflector is lowered which directs feed into bunks. It’ll handle everything from the soupiest manure to fresh straw manure and the operator has total control of the speed of spread by regulating the hydraulic ram.

For feeding, a deflector is lowered down over the rotor to direct feed into bunks. “Unlike conventional feed wagons that use chains or belts, the operator has complete control over the speed at which feed is brought into the dispensing rotor. It’ll handle even the most coarsely cut silage and straw, and, if you layer different materials in the wagon, the rotor will mix them when unloading,” points out Keenan.

“It’s got very high output and is extremely reliable. All key components are easily accessible. For example, there are just four bearings, all of which are standard industrial bearings externally located to pre-



Hydraulic-powered disc force-feeds manure and feed forward to unloading rotor. Handles both dry and liquid materials.

vent contact with corrosive substances. They’re easy to remove, if necessary,” notes Keenan, adding that another advantage of the design is that the large capacity high speed rotor easily handles, twine, rope and other objects so down time is kept to a minimum.

The Irish company has also introduced its new Easi-Feeder mixer wagon which Keenan says “Completely eliminates the problems associated with auger-type feed mixer wagons. It uses two large paddles to rotate the feed, greatly reducing horsepower requirements and handling even the wettest silage. It’ll mix any forage or feed material and will mix and feed in one-third the time of most other systems. Its minimum number of moving parts enables fast servicing by the farmer himself. There are only six bearings of common variety and they’re designed for easy removal.”

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Keenan & Company Limited, Borris, Co. Carlow, Ireland (ph 011 353 503 73214).



U.S. group now sells 2-in. dia. “Strawloggs” by the bag or by the ton, using their own wheat straw as raw material.

MAKES 2-IN. DIA. BRIQUETTES FOR BURNING IN FIREPLACES, FURNACES

English Straw Cubing Machine Now In U.S.

After reading about a new English straw cubing machine in FARM SHOW (Vol. 8, No. 5, 1983) a group of five Colorado farmers teamed up to buy one of the machines and are now selling straw briquettes from straw off their own wheat fields.

“We have the only one in the world outside of England,” says Walt Strasser, president of the farmers’ Qube Corp., headquartered in Jewelsburg, Col. They bought the machine from New Air Technical Services, Leicester, England and now have exclusive U.S. distribution rights for the machine.

Their main business at this time, however, is selling 2-in. dia. briquettes called Strawloggs. “Many people buy Strawloggs to burn in their fireplaces or furnaces. We sell the briquettes in 40-lb. bags or by the ton. The briquettes are clean, easy to handle, plus they have less pollution than wood. Straw also doesn’t have creosote that gums up chimneys and stovepipes,” says Strasser.

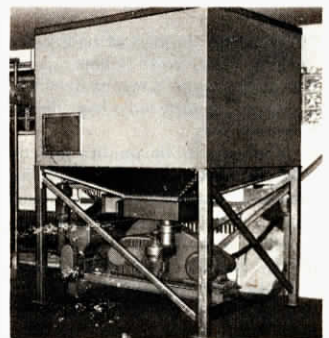
He adds that “Briquettes made of wheat straw put out about 6,300 btu’s per lb. and are right at 6% moisture, so they’re comparable to burning wood, although wood usually has a higher moisture content. The briquettes do leave about twice as much ash as wood, but even that’s useful, since it’s high in potash and makes good fertilizer for gardens.”

Other potential uses include use as a crop-drying or industrial fuel.

Besides wheat straw, the Colorado farmers have also cubed oat and rye straw and have even experimented with cornstalks. However, they found that stalks didn’t work as well as straw for burning.

This year, the farmers baled the wheat straw right behind the combine, making 6-ft. dia., 800-lb. round bales. The bales were then taken to the cuber where they’re fed into the machine which can process about 500 lbs. an hour.

In the machine, bales are shredded,



Straw compressing machine makes about 500 lbs. of briquettes per hour using high pressure but no binding material.

run through a hammermill, then put into a holding tank. From the tank, ground up straw is metered into a press which exerts 52 lbs. pressure per sq. in. to compress the straw. Straw is then extruded as briquettes through a cooling tube.

An 800-lb. bale, 6-ft. in dia., produces 800 lbs. of briquettes which fit into 20 of the 40-lb. bags. Briquettes are about 40 times more dense than unpacked straw. Straw compaction is done only by pressure — no glue, water or binding material is used.

Qube Corp. sells the briquettes through dealers and stores. Price, fob Jewelsburg, is \$3.50 per bag, and \$150 per ton.

The company is looking for persons interested in purchasing machines to set up their own operations. Strasser feels that potential buyers include groups of farmers who could use their own straw and sell it, as well as towns, that could buy straw from nearby farmers and resell it in briquette form. Price for a complete machine is right at \$100,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Qube Corp., P.O. Box 82, Jewelsburg, Col. 80737 (ph 303 854-4892).