



Tumbling action of planter breaks up the mass of seed allowing individual seeds to fall through holes in the drums.

## UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTES SEED THROUGH HOLES IN ROTATING DRUMS

# Drum-Type Grass Seeder

New-style grass seeder uniformly distributes grass seed through circular openings in a pair of rotating aluminum drums and uses drag chains to lightly cover the seed with 1/8 to 1/4 in. of soil.

The 9-ft. wide, ground driven planter, which was developed to plant seed that's got a lot of chaff and other trash in it, can be pulled by a tractor, pickup, or ATV. You simply open the lid on top of each drum and fill it two thirds full of seed.

"It's extremely accurate and costs much less than most grain drills that can handle 'chaffy' grasses such as big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass and Old World bluestem grasses," says Weldon Miller, president. "Most grass seed is light and feathery and clumps together so much it won't work its way down through holes in the bottom of a grain drill box. The tumbling action of our drum planter breaks up the mass of seed into individual seeds that fall through the holes. Each basket has 500 holes that are 7/16 to 9/16 in. in diameter. The holes can be closed up with rubber plugs depending on the desired seeding rate. We supply a chart that shows the number of holes to plug for each seed variety. The planter is easy to clean out. You simply open the lid and use a hose to wash out the drum, allowing you to quickly change from one seed variety to another. It works great in combination with our Flail Vac grass seed

stripper which gently harvests the seed with a giant brush. This planter eliminates the need for an expensive, time-consuming cleaning process that can damage seed quality. You can plant the next day, or dry the seed, bag it, and plant it the following spring without cleaning it. Some farmers modify the planter to plant legume seeds. They plug all of the holes, then drill holes that are big enough for legume seed to fall through but too small for chaffy grass seed."

Chet Dewald, research agronomist for the USDA Southern Plains Range Research Station, Woodward, Okla., has tested the planter for two years. "It's the most accurate planter I've ever seen for chaffy grass seed," says Dewald. "It works best at speeds of 4 to 10 mph, or 20 to 60 rpms. Three different gears are available to regulate the speed at which the drums rotate. It's ideal for seeding small patches of land because it's light, easy to maneuver, and fuel efficient. The aluminum design minimizes rust. It's also easy to transport - two men can lift it into the back of a pickup."

A lightweight drill hitch for pulling two planters at a time is also available.

Sells for \$2,500.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag-Renewal, Inc., 1710 Airport Road, Weatherford, Okla. 73096 (ph 405 772-7059).

## NEW AIR TURBINE DELIVERS MORE AIR WITH LESS HORSEPOWER

# Prototype Air Reel

A Canadian manufacturer who's dissatisfied with other air "reels" on the market unveiled a prototype system at the recent International Plowing Match near Brantford, Ontario that's got a new turbine blower that he says delivers more air with less horsepower.

But Ron Thompson of Argis Ltd., is excited about the performance of his experimental reel and plans to work on it this winter, possibly taking it down to Brazil to for further testing on ready-to-harvest crops there.

"The problem with air reels is that if there's too much air flow they won't work in a short crop. If there's not enough, they won't work in a tall or weedy crop. Every soybean farmer should be using air to harvest but existing systems are expensive. We think our reel will work better and we hope

to sell it for just one-third as much," says Thompson.

The prototype blower features a new-style turbine fan that Thompson says develops more than twice as much air flow with a minimum of horsepower. It's driven by a single drive belt. "Existing air systems require 3 or 4 drive belts and need lots of maintenance because of high operating speeds. This new turbine was invented by an engineer who does a lot of work with helicopters and adapted some of those principles in the design."

Thompson says his air system is designed to mount ahead of any bat-type reel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Argis Ltd., Box 154, Listowel, Ontario N4W 3G8 Canada (ph 519 291-4205).



New reel takes just an hour to install and uses existing reel controls. Small-veined blower fan runs across whole width of header.

## PRODUCES 2 1/2 TIMES AS MUCH AIR FLOW WITH 1/2 THE POWER

# New Air Reel Creates A "Solid Wall Of Air"

"It creates a solid wall of air that moves stalks and shattered grain into the header, saving 1 to 6 bu. of grain every acre. Makes all other methods of feeding crop into combines out-of-date," says Leon Gullickson, Keho Alta Products Ltd., manufacturer of a new-style air reel that uses a "vortex" type blower that runs across the entire width of the header instead of individual "fingers" as on other air reels, including Keho's own "Windreel".

Gullickson says the company was looking for a way to make use of hydraulics already on the combine. They wanted to get away from the high-speed blowers - up to 6,000 rpm's - on conventional air reels. The new vortex reel uses existing reel hydraulics and runs at a maximum 2,000 rpm's with a standard speed of 1,500 to 1,700 rpm's.

"It takes less than an hour to install and you use your existing controls for the reel to adjust air flow. Requires no modification to header and it's easy to put the reel back on, if needed, or for resale. It's also a lot quieter than finger-type air reels, and visibility is outstanding," says Gullickson.

The new reel has just one moving part - the small-veined blower fan that runs across the full width of the header. It's positioned so it's just above the back of the cutterbar.

Height is adjusted according to the condition and size of the crop.

Gullickson says that even though the horsepower required to operate the new reel is less than half of what's required with finger-type air reels, the new vortex blower actually creates 2 1/2 times as much air flow. Because it creates a solid curtain of air, there are no dead air spots along the cutterbar and it also eliminates the need for drive belts and pulleys.

Hydraulic oil flow requirement is 9 gpm at 2,000 psi. Can be built to any length - a 30-ft. prototype was used on farms across the U.S. and Canada last summer - and weighs approximately 18 lbs. per linear foot.

"It works great in soybeans because it virtually eliminates the shattering caused by normal methods of feeding crop into the combine. Heads and kernels are 'air swept' onto the cutting table and into the combine. At the same time, there's excellent visibility of the crop and ground right in front of the combine," says Gullickson.

A 17-ft. air reel sells for \$5,500 (Canadian).

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keho Alta Products Ltd., P.O. Box 70, Barons, Alberta Canada T0L 0G0 (ph 403 757-2444).



Key to success of new air system is a first-of-its-kind turbine blower that develops more than twice as much air flow with a minimum of horsepower.