

Where To Get Spreader Chains And Paddles

More than 30 years ago Hank Van Bochove started Excel Machine & has been making manure spreader parts for about 10 years on his Inwood Iowa farm. By experimenting with different metals he was able to develop paddles and chains that are stronger and last much longer than the OEM parts. Today, he and his sons Brad and Justin, grandson Tyler, and 3 other employees are a big supplier of paddles and pintle chains to customers across the country.

"We started out small and soon the word spread that we made excellent replacement parts. We were also able to offer huge cost savings so the business just grew from there," says Brad. "Now we manufacture and stock many of the common paddles that fit several types of spreaders on the market." The family-owned business, known as Excel Manufacturing, will also custom-manufacture paddles to whatever specifications a customer wants.

"We make our paddles from high carbon steel," says Brad. "They're thicker and wider than the original and OEM upgrades, so they last longer. Our paddles are more resistant to abrasive material like sand and gravel and corrosive manure than ones you'd buy from a spreader dealer."

Excel's chains fit manure spreaders, silage wagons and an assortment of drive idler sprockets for apron chains. Because they buy large quantities of chain they're able to save farmers about 40 percent on the cost of a new pintle apron chain compared to ones bought from a dealer.

The company's website is designed in a way that customers can easily order the chain or paddles they need online. The make and model of the spreader along with the chain type, bed length, center-to-center width and links between flights provides Excel with the information they need to fill the chain order. Paddle orders are filled in



Hank Van Bochove and his sons are a big supplier of heavy-duty paddles and pintle chains for manure spreaders.

the same manner when the make and model of spreader are provided. Excel also takes orders by phone if a customer doesn't have internet access.

"We try to fill every order within one day and can ship it for next day arrival if a customer needs it fast," Brad adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Excel Machine & Manufacturing, 2751 Beech Ave., Inwood, Iowa 51240 (ph 712 986-4288; www.manurespreaderparts.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 10

"Foolproof" Live Catch Mousetrap

"You can catch mice like crazy with very little expense and no poison," says Dave Cassens, Grafton, Ill., about his new live mousetrap. "This trap is practically foolproof. You can catch one mouse after another in it."

The "Best Mouse Trap Ever" consists of an 11-in. long, 8-in. dia. cone made from ABS plastic covered by mesh screen. The top of the trap is solid plastic with an entrance hole in the middle. The rest of the trap is all wire mesh, which allows mice to smell and see the bait. A removable plastic tray at the bottom has a divided bait cup for feed and water.

The mouse climbs up the mesh and jumps through the hole. To release the mouse you simply remove the bottom tray.

"There's no doubt that this trap will catch lots of mice. One farmer put 3 of my traps in his barn a few weeks ago and has already caught 126 mice," says Cassens. "The hole

is big enough for young rats, and we've even caught a chipmunk in it. You can dunk the mice in a bucket of water and kill them in seconds.

"There are no moving parts so there's nothing to break on it, and there's no poison. The built-in food and water system allows mice to live for weeks in the trap, so if you're not home for several days you don't have to worry about the odor from dead mice. Every so often you can just hose off the trap, or put it in a deep sink with bleach and it will clean up like new."

According to Cassens, the plastic at the top of the trap is so smooth that once mice get in they can't crawl back out. It's also hard enough that they can't chew through it.

The trap sells online for \$19.99, 2 for \$35.99, or 4 for \$64.99 including S&H and is also available in some stores.

You can watch mice getting caught in the trap on youtube by going to [www.best-](http://www.best-mousetrap-ever.com)



Mouse climbs up trap's mesh sides and jumps through an entrance hole at top. To release the mouse you remove a plastic tray at bottom.

mousetrap-ever.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Cassens, CasMac Innovations, P. O. Box 119, Grafton, Ill. 62037 (ph 618 786-3614; david.cassens@cassensbait.com; www.BestMouseTrapEver.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 11

Convert Cat Engines From Pony Motor To Electric Start

Bryan Parker sells kits that convert most Caterpillar engines equipped with a pony motor to electric start.

The cost is as little as \$895 or as much as \$1,295 depending on which options you choose with the kit. We now have kits for the RD-6 3 cylinder. We also have charging systems.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bryan Parker, 13925 County Rd. 8510, Newburg, Mo. 65550 (ph 573 465-0276; e-mail: catstarter@gmail.com or catstarter@yahoo.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 12