

Association Promotes Herding Breed Dogs

The American Herding Breed Association (AHBA) is internationally known for promoting practical herding trials and providing exceptional resources for owners, breeders, and handlers of herding breeds of dogs. There are more than 230 members in the U.S. and about 30 more in Canada, England and Europe.

Association president Linda Rorem says the AHBA was organized when a small group of breeders held herding instinct trials in 1986, then expanded their activities by developing improved standards, training courses, more competitions and national awareness. The AHBA now holds junior trials, advanced trials and championship competitions for several dog classes throughout the U.S. and other countries where its members are located.

Rorem says many breeds are eligible for herding training and trials, with Border Collies and Australian Shepherds the most common in the U.S. Rorem says dogs in training are all instinctively hard-working, loyal, strong and smart. They also possess a need to be useful.

"They love the work they do, and their good genetics make training much easier," says Rorem. "Young herding dogs start preliminary training as puppies and more specific training begins at 6 mos. with smaller livestock like sheep."

Herding dogs can compete in their first instinct trial at just 6 mos. old and can advance to Junior Herding tests at 9 mos. As more technical training is worked into the dog they can enter full trials when they're about a year old.

Rorem says "a good herding dog is evaluated and chosen on several characteristics, including breeding, temperament and the types of animals they'll be working with. A lot depends on the individual dog, too."

AHBA members typically breed and train stock dogs for both trail and farm or ranch work. The AHBA provides resources like events and trials, newsletters and a community facebook page. A significant function of the AHBA is member networking and sharing unique skills of the dogs and their owners. Rorem says "trials provide a benchmark for training, allowing people to



American Herding Breed Association promotes herding trials, holding championship competitions for several dog classes throughout the U.S. and other countries.

see how far they've progressed. They also bring people together to exchange ideas and socialize, and learn from others."

Many of the herding trainers offer instruction for dog owners as well as the animals. Rorem says it's important to teach owners good handling skills and the correct

commands so they and their animal "speak and understand the same language."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The American Herding Breed Association (www.ahba-herding.org; ph 650 355-9563; pacific19@gmail.com).

Heavy-Duty "Single Use" Walk-Behind Equipment

Forget about switching heads, beds or tools with Power Dog Equipment. The company has built its reputation, like its equipment, on the concept of one power unit for one use.

"Anytime you do attachments, you have to sacrifice on the attachment and the power unit to compensate for the different machines," says Leroy Kuhns, Power Dog. "We build each machine so it's optimized for one use."

The first machine the company built was a rototiller. "There wasn't a good one on the market with dual rotating tines that could work in either direction," says Kuhns. "We went with hydraulic drive for instant forward/reverse versatility."

A designer working on the rototiller led them to their next product, a Bachtold-style brush mower. The Power Dog 926 has the same protective steel fingers over the revolving deck as the Bachtold. They separate the brush and feed it into the cutting blades without pushing it over as other mowers do. At the same time as brush and grass is cut, it is rolled to the side, leaving a windrow of cut material.

"Bachtold went out of business, but the

designer who held the patent was working with us," says Kuhns. "He asked us to build it. It is a fast cutter that doesn't mulch or chop material, making it easy to collect later."

Kuhns says Christmas tree growers like it for the low end that can get in and under limbs.

Other Power Dog equipment includes a weed and tall grass mower, 5 log splitter models, and a second rototiller. All share the hydro transmission and drive design with tandem variable displacement pumps.

Power Dog markets their equipment heavily toward the commercial rental business. The single use concept is popular with their customers.

"Rental outlets like the idea that when a customer walks through the door, the machine is ready to go without spending time changing attachments," says Kuhns. "They also recognize that a customer usually rents a machine for a single use. While it is out, the other attachments sit there unable to be rented."

Equipment varies in price with the Bachtold-style 926 brush mower priced at



Examples of Power Dog equipment include their weed and tall grass mower (upper left), rototiller (upper right), and brush mower.

\$3,295. The tiller starts at \$4,119, and log splitters range from \$1,900 to \$3,200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Power Dog Equipment, 10101 Shively Rd., Nappanee, Ind. 46550 (ph 866 505-8085; www.powerdodgeequipment.com).

Portable "Canola Crusher" Tests For Green Seeds

Green seed is a serious problem for canola growers, since amounts above 2 percent cause quality downgrades that reduce prices. Gerard Devloo says his new portable "canola crusher" provides a fast way to check samples for green seed.

The device is made of stainless steel and aluminum and looks somewhat like a meat grinder. The 14-in. high unit is equipped with a small hopper and a rotating pickup wheel with 250 seed pockets.

The operator places about a half cup of seed in the hopper, then turns a "crusher handle" 4 times. The crusher counts out the desired number of seeds that pass through 2 notched crushing wheels.

A roller presses the crushed seed, in neat rows, onto a strip of masking tape which feeds out the back of the device. The operator then tears off the sample strip and checks the number of green seeds in the sample. The remaining seed can then be dropped out of the spring-loaded hopper.



Canola crusher presses crushed seed in neat rows onto masking tape that feeds out back of device.

Retails for \$895 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Devloo Canola Crusher, P.O. Box 223, Somerset, Manitoba Canada R0G 2L0 (ph 204 744-2773; gmdeloo@gmail.com; www.canolacrusher.com).

3-Pt. Mounted Disc Hiller Built From Scrap Parts

"I built my own 3-pt. mounted disc hiller and cultivator out of an old Leinbach 1-row cultivator frame and parts off a pair of old Farmall belly-mounted cultivators. Everything that I used came out of a local junkyard," says Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.

He uses the disc hiller and cultivator in his large vegetable garden to hill up and cultivate row crops such as corn, beans, and potatoes.

The Leinbach 1-row cultivator came equipped with 6 cultivator tines with reversible curved points and was used only to break up the ground. He replaced the tines with the shovels off a Farmall Super A cultivating tractor in order to control weeds between the rows. He removed the disc hillers from the Super A and replaced them with two 10-in. discs that run at an angle to hill up dirt.

The discs are supported by a pair of 2-in.



Home-built 3-pt. disc hiller works great to hill up and cultivate row crops in Beggs's garden.

solid steel toolbars off an old Farmall H cultivating tractor. Beggs cut square holes in the cultivator frame next to the hitch pins on the 3-pt. lower lift arms, then ran the toolbars up through the frame and welded them on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Beggs, 3378 Augusta Hwy., Lincolnton, Ga. 30817 (ph 706 359-1240).