

Mulch Bagger Saves Time And Money

Frank Weaver, of Weaverline, manufactures a portable feed cart that's designed to handle silage. He was approached by a customer who sells bagged mulch. The man had simply mounted the feed cart on pallets and started filling bags.

"It worked but he asked us if we could build one specifically designed for filling bags with mulch," says Weaver.

Weaver points out that compost, wood chips or shredded bark can all be handled by the Mulch Bagger, which is powered by a 1 1/2 hp., dual voltage, 110/220 AC motor.

"We recommend 220 if at a distance from the electric panel," says Weaver. "If it's in a yard away from outlets, it can also run off a small generator."

The original design was raised to accommodate a 2-cu. ft. bag. A heavy-duty rubber guard over the discharge chute drops the mulch straight down and into a bag.

Six plexiglass windows on the side of the hopper and an inspection window on the chute allow the operator to constantly monitor remaining product and the flow of materials.

It features a hydrostatic drive for forward and reverse with controls at the discharge chute. The operator can select from 6 conveyor speeds, while the foot-operated clutch engages the 4 stainless steel augers. Stainless steel slats convey material to the augers inside the stainless-steel hopper.

"From the stainless-steel materials to the heavy-duty bearings, the Mulch Bagger is fabricated for a long life," says Weaver.

The stainless-steel hopper has a capacity of 2 1/4 cu. yards, a loading height of 77 in. and a total height of 97 in. The 20-in. high angled hopper extension on one side makes fills faster and reduces potential spilling. The



Mulch Bagger was designed to be an improvement from two workers with a shovel and a bag. One person can fill up to 200 bags per hour.

51-in. wide hopper has a loading width of 90 in.

"It was designed to be a significant step up from two workers with a shovel and a bag," says Weaver. "One person with the Mulch Bagger can fill up to 200 bags per hour, at least twice what the two-person team can do."

The Mulch Bagger is priced at \$5,400. "It is ideal for small to midsize retail nurseries and greenhouses, pretty much anyone selling bulk mulch," says Weaver. "It allows them to take control of their mulch buying requirements and increase their profit margin."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weaverline, 180 Boot Jack Rd., Narvon, Penn. 17555 (ph 717-445-6724; info@weaverline.com; www.mulchbagger.com).



The double screw system can be adjusted to increase or decrease compaction of silage entering the 26 1/2-in. dia., 44-in. long bags.

Mini Bagger Makes "Haylage To Go"

The Mini Silage Bagger from Farm Tech Canada can pack haylage or silage into a 55-lb. bag. Ideal for small farms and supplying hobby farmers, the sealed bags are easy to transport and store and have a shelf life of up to a year.

"We have a lot of customers overseas who prefer a small, portable machine," says Samuel Campos, Farm Tech Canada. "We introduced the Mini Silage Bagger 3 years ago. Our main customers here are small farmers or hobby farmers."

Jan Martusewicz, Leray Sealed Storage, first saw the Mini Silage Baggers on YouTube being used in other countries. After 37 years selling Ag Baggers and their bags, Martusewicz saw market potential for the small bags of silage and haylage and signed on as a U.S. dealer.

"This isn't new technology, but the size is new," says Martusewicz. "I think it has a lot of potential for small farmers. Being portable, you could pull into a large operation, buy a ton of silage or haylage, bag it up and take it home."

Martusewicz can see the 55-lb. bags being very competitive with small bales of hay for the hobby farm market. He notes that bagged corn silage or haylage isn't an option for owners of a few animals.

"The problem with the large Ag Bags is that once you open one, you have to be able to feed a lot every day," says Martusewicz. "A mini bag can be opened, fed from and closed

up tight."

The Mini Silage Bagger is priced at \$3,900 (U.S.). The 4-ft. high, 4 by 7-ft. long machine is powered by a 6 1/2 hp. gas engine. The all-steel machine weighs 330 lbs. but is easily positioned with its low-speed pneumatic tires.

The double screw system can be adjusted to increase or decrease compaction of silage entering the 26 1/2-in. dia., 44-in. long bags. Agitators prevent loose silage in the hopper from clogging. Campos reports that it can process 1,000 lbs. of silage an hour on average. Like full-size Ag Bag bags, the mini bagger bags are UV and puncture-resistant.

"The bags can be stored in piles indoors or outdoors," says Campos.

The company also makes a modified Mini Silage Bagger for mushroom producers. "A mushroom farmer contacted us about using the mini bagger for mushroom substrate," says Campos. "They commonly use 8-in. dia. bags, so we adjusted our machines for them."

Farm Tech Canada also makes 5, 7 and 9-ft. dia. silage baggers. Campos says the company is seeking more dealers in the U.S. and Canada, as well as in other countries.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farm Tech Canada Manufacturing, 186 Cochlan Dr., Morden, Man. Canada R6M 1G5 (ph 204-823-3641; info@farmtechcanada.com; www.farmtechcanada.com) or Leray Sealed Storage, 28787 Martin Rd. N., Evans Mills, N.Y. 13637 (ph 315-783-1856; lerayss@gisco.net; www.leraysealedstorage.com).

Poultry School participants learn from veterinarians, professionals and each other during the 4-day event.



Poultry School Helps Keep Flocks Healthy

Poultry Health Management School is one way poultry production folks stay on top of best practices and learn about prevalent issues. After going virtual in 2021, the 4-day event celebrates its 21st year, with in-person classes May 16-19, 2022, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

Besides learning from veterinarians, professors and other poultry professionals, participants share experiences outside of classes, says Hannah Halldorson, communications director with the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, the organization that manages the annual school.

"This year's theme is disease and diagnostics and learning how to manage them," she says, adding that growers are always interested in fine-tuning tips about better biosecurity management.

"A new add-on is roundtable discussions with representatives from vaccine companies

talking to participants," she says.

The school is divided into two sessions. May 16-17 covers the production of turkeys and broilers. May 18-19 focuses on egg layers. Each session is limited to 70 participants. Tuition is \$300 and participants can book reservations at the Union Club Hotel on Purdue's campus.

The school's planning team includes experts from Purdue University, Michigan State University, Iowa State University, University of Minnesota, Western University of Health Sciences and Lapama's Farms.

Sign up for the school is in progress on the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Poultry Health Management School, 108 Marty Dr., Buffalo, Minn. 55313 (ph 763-682-2171; info@minnesotaturkey.com; www.poultryhealthschool.com).

Forever Hinges Keep Gates Swinging

Failed gate hinges were one of the biggest complaints Chris McBurney heard from producers while designing cattle handling facilities and pens. So, he got busy in his workshop to develop the Forever Hinge.

"I thought that if the steel is around the horizontal part of the gate, it would be stronger and not fail like strap hinges," he explains.

McBurney's final patented design has five bolts on the part of the hinge fastened to the gate. It works on 1.66-in. and 2-in. tube gates. There are options for how it's mounted to a post including a long bolt or a lag plate for wood posts or a weld nut for steel posts.

With the bolts, the heavy-duty hinge can easily be removed and used on another gate. The hinge is also hot-dipped galvanized to protect it from rust and weather.

McBurney sells the Forever Hinge for \$125/pair (includes shipping), with a 5-year warranty.

Customers include small producers, feedlot owners and horse owners.

"We want everyone to be successful in agriculture," McBurney says, adding his slogan, "It's not for every gate. It's for the ones you want to keep swinging."



Forever Hinge has five bolts that fasten to a 1.66 or 2-in. tube gate.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chris McBurney, 1494 Campbellsburg Rd., New Castle, Ky. 40050 (ph 502-845-1160; Chris@cattleeq.com; www.foreverhinge.com).