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Artificial Dew Keeps Hay Quality High

In hot, dry farming regions, high-quality hay can turn into poor-quality hay in mere hours. That's what the Harvest Tec 720 Dew Simulator is designed to fix.

A pre-baling pass over forage windrows delivers a precise amount of heated water into the crop, making the hay softer plus increasing its weight, similar to natural dew.

The 720 preheats water to 240 F with two in-series diesel fuel water heaters delivering 750,000 Btu each, raising the temperature 180 degrees at 18 gals. per min. Water is drawn from a towed tank using a pto-driven 1,000 rpm pump supplying 15 gals. per min. at 750 psi.

"Using high pressure, we apply a heated mist at anywhere from 8 to 20 gals. per min. depending on the windrow, ambient temperature, wind, humidity, and other factors influencing evaporation," says Bryant Henningfeld, Harvest Tec Sales Manager. "There also might be some residual moisture left in the windrow that affects how much water we need to apply."

He says the key feature of the unit is how 20 and 40-micron water droplets are precisely injected without damaging the leaves or unnecessarily stirring up the windrow. The 250 to 500 psi spray is introduced through 65 ground-driven tines entering and exiting the windrow vertically to minimize crop disturbance. A cam reel system opens the

water valves only when the tines are inside the windrow and closes them as they exit to conserve water.

"The tines reach about 4 in. above the ground, so the high-pressure mist is saturating the entire windrow," Henningfeld says. "Plus, it adds extra moisture for the soil at such a high pressure."

The system is computer-based and uses a combination of input and output sensors and a water flow meter. Using a touchscreen inside the tractor cab, the operator can make fingertip adjustments on the amounts of water and number of diesel heaters running.

"Automation is mainly for heat control, with the operator, either from experience or from talking with the baler driver, making adjustments on the flow of water," Henningfeld says. "The heat increases the softening effect. We want to soften the leaves quickly for the baler to follow close behind and retain them."

The 720 Dew Simulators are manufactured in Hudson, Wis., and are sold throughout North America, Mexico, China, Australia and South Africa.

Units retail between \$80,000 and \$90,000 plus S&H depending on options.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bryant Henningfeld, Harvest Tec, 2821 Harvey Street, Hudson, Wis. 54016 (ph 800-635-7468; info@harvesttec.com; www.harvesttec.com).



NDY makes a bolt-on hitch for combines to tow a wagon, blower or spreader.

Adjustable Tow Hitch For Combines

If you want to pull a chaff collector wagon, blower or spreader behind a combine, take a look at NDY Manufacturing's rear hitches for Case IH, Lexion, and Deere S, STS, and X9 series combines.

Each model features versions with extendable and adjustable tongues ranging from 48 to 73 in. depending on make and model plus the rear distance needed between the combine and implement. Ground clearance of the hitches ranges from 20 to 23 in.

"All our rear-mounted hitches use a hitch pin to secure them to whatever is being pulled by the combine," says Kelly Christiansen,

NDY manager. "They bolt directly to the combine frame and are telescoping to fit the desired length."

The combine hitches are produced in Bonfield, Ill., and are sold either directly or through a dealer network.

Prices range from \$770 to \$785 including all hardware and mounting brackets, plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelly Christiansen, NDY Manufacturing, 4590 N 11000W Road, Bonfield, Ill. 60913 (ph 815-426-2330; sales@ndymfg.com; www.ndymfg.com).



Kramer Manufacturing bale retriever has dual oscillating axles.

"Simple" Retriever Picks Up Round Bales

The Ranch Hand is a single-row 8-bale retriever built with a heavy-duty steel frame and equipped with eight 280/70R15 Firestone tires mounted on greased 6-bolt hubs.

"Dual oscillating axles support the wheels, allowing for smooth travel over peaked roads and the roughest fields," says Brent Gokie, KM co-owner. "They use a back and forth and side-to-side motion to keep things level."

To pick up bales, a hydraulically operated cradle is lowered to the ground to collect, lift and flip them onto the retriever's long table. From there, smooth-sided chains move them rearward, clear of any incoming bales.

To unload the trailer, the table is hydraulically lifted, and the chain engaged to carry the bales out the rear making neat rows as the tractor is slowly driven forward.

The table chains also have lugged portions that can be used to load rows of bales from the field if desired.

Kramer Manufacturing has been in business for 87 years and ships equipment internationally to Canada, Russia, and Ukraine, plus nationally to 37 U.S. states. Dealerships are established mainly throughout the Dakotas, Wyoming, Kansas and Montana regions.

The Ranch Hand 8-bale retrievers are built in Atkinson, Neb., and sell for \$26,000 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brent Gokie, Kramer Manufacturing, 108 West Union St., Atkinson, Neb. 68713 (ph 402-925-5433; brentdgokie@gmail.com; www.kramermanufacturing.com).

Easy-To-Use Fencing Tool

Wes Hilton says the Show-Me Twister fencing tool takes the place of screwdrivers, pliers, and anything else people typically use to work on fencing.

It's a hand tool used for installing and securing T-post fence clips on barbed wire fences.

"Our tool uses leverage to create the bend in the clip that goes around the wire," Hilton says. "The real benefit of this thing is it does a great job of tightening a fence clip on both sides."

"The long end of the fence clip is inserted in the hole on the tip of the tool. Then the tool is rotated over and under the strand of barbed wire till secured," Hilton says. "The other end of the clip is inserted in the hole on the side of the tool and pulled down tight."

The tool's design makes it easy to tightly install a single clip in well under 20 seconds. If livestock lean on the fence or deer jump over it, they won't knock the fence down because it's on there snugly.

"This tool is much faster than running down your fence with a pair of pliers," he says.

There are other fencing tools on the market, but Hilton says the Show-Me Twister tool has an important difference. There's a bend at the end of the Show-Me Twister that isn't there in the competition.

"When you put that clip in the hole at the top and slide it all the way down, it creates pressure on that clip, and it bites inside that tool," Hilton says. "That bite ensures that the Twister tool won't come off the clip till it's tight."

The Hilton family has had a cattle farm for years and did a lot of fixing fences. Wes Hilton says the Twister is a product of his father, Mark, getting a little arthritis and wanting to make fencing easier.

"We had used other products but found



Show-Me Twister tool secures T-post fence clips on wire fences.

they weren't ergonomically friendly," he says. "Nor did we like that you couldn't use them to tighten both sides of the clip. So, we made some modifications and wound up with a better tool."

The tool is popular among farmwives and younger kids who work on fencing because the design is comfortable for people with smaller hands.

The Hilton family's patent on the Show-Me Twister became official in 2021, and the reception from farmers has been all positive since then.

"We've had this thing at farm shows across the Midwest," Hilton says. "Over time, we've had many people approach us at shows saying they lost theirs and wanted to buy two because they like our tool so much."

The tool is available on the company website for \$21.99, with shipping and tax included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark and Wes Hilton, 28103 Redwood Lane, Lebanon, Mo. 65536 (ph 417-594-1099; www.showmetwister.com).

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