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These Combine Headers Suit Any Conditions

Many Canadian and Midwest U.S. grain farmers are choosing Honey Bee Manufacturing's AirFLEX NXT combine headers to tackle harvest challenges.

"We sell premium products to farmers looking for more innovative and closer to the field equipment," says Spencer Groth, Marketing Manager. "We're not a bulk, wholesale store but rather a niche manufacturer."

The unique AirFLEX headers come in 25, 30, 36, 40, 45, and 50 ft., plus the new 60-ft. selection. All headers feature flex or rigid choices at the push of a button and are suitable for a variety of crops including cereals, oilseeds, lentils, peas, plus many more.

Honey Bee's exclusive air systems feature onboard tanks and compressors, which allow air to be added or released from supportive airbags. Sensing capabilities can be automatically switched from gauge wheel operation to direct off the cutter bar.

The AirFLEX NXT's underside skids are also adjustable from the cab. Additionally, all cutting bars feature several pivot points to accommodate rolling fields.

"No one else is using this air system,"

Portable Power Stations Offer Convenient Energy Supply

Growatt New Energy Co. sells Portable Power Stations, which are rechargeable-battery-powered generators that provide off-grid electricity through multiple outlets and charging ports.

These power stations use bi-directional inverter technology and can power about 90 percent of outdoor devices and home appliances. Use it camping for your lantern, electric fan, or heater, or at home to power a laptop, electric grill, or coffee maker. The stations are quieter and more environmentally friendly than gas generators.

Unlike solar generators, the portable power station won't generate electricity continuously. Instead, it works like a battery for storing and discharging energy. Growatt power stations are also lighter than most generators and designed with handles for easy transportation. The power stations have a UPS function, which ensures instant switching to keep equipment running through a power outage. Likewise, it offers power protection to keep appliances functioning in case of power surges.

Each portable power station comes with various outlets for powering numerous devices simultaneously. These include USB C, USB A, USB-A fast charging, car power output, and AC output. They can charge up to 80 percent within an hour through wall charging and in 2 1/2 hours by connecting to

Groth explains. "We've fine-tuned it on our machines for 8 years now, and we're definitely in proven concept territory."

Headers fit all combine brands with specially manufactured adapters.

"We build adapters to fit them all," he says. "If a combine has enough power to lift the header, we'll have an adapter ready for it."

The independently suspended cutter bar and air system allow lower cutting, even shaving of the ground. Additionally, it works well in muddy or otherwise challenging fields.

Honey Bee's AirFLEX NXT headers are manufactured in Frontier, Sask., and sold through dealerships across North America.

Groth encourages interested farmers to contact them through the website or their closest dealer for information and pricing details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Honey Bee Manufacturing, P.O. Box 120, Frontier, Sask., Canada S0N 0W0 (ph 306-296-2297; info@honeybee.ca; www.honeybee.ca).



Unlike solar generators, the portable power station won't generate electricity continuously. Instead, it works like a battery for storing and discharging energy.

Growatt portable solar panels. Car charging is also an option.

The power system's runtime will depend on the watt hours purchased and the number of devices linked to it. A simple formula will provide an estimate: Operating time (hours) = Wh (watt hours) * 0.85 / the power of your device(s) running. Three options are available: the VITA 550 for \$429, the INFINITY 1300 LiFePO4 for \$1,049, and the INFINITY 1500 for \$1,099. They can be purchased online at the Growatt website or through various retail distributors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Growatt, 9227 Reseda Blvd. #435, Northridge, Calif. 91324 (ph 866-686-0298; support.pps@growatt.com; www.growattportable.com).



Replacing mechanical equipment with an air conveying system also reduces the number of moving parts to maintain.

Air-Powered Windrower Has Fewer Moving Parts

To increase shredding and windrowing efficiency, Loftness developed a 20 ft. wide, "air delivery," side discharge shredder and windrower as an option to typical center delivery equipment.

"End or side delivery adds efficiency because we can take 20 ft. of material and transfer it all to one end," says Bill Schafer, Loftness Product Manager. "When we return on the next cut, we're taking another 20 ft. and adding it to the single windrow."

While most traditional windrowers use mechanical means such as augers, drag chains, or rubber draper belts to convey crop material, the updated Loftness unit uses airflow generated by the combination knives. The unique shape and careful placement of the rear wing create a vortex action that keeps the product in suspension and directs it to a diffuser at the end of the machine.

"By adding to the knife count, this combination of knives gives us the right amount of airflow for delivery and chopping action for sizing the product, all while allowing faster ground speeds than previous models," Schafer says. "We get the cutting action we

want and a controlled amount of air running through the machine."

Clogging issues from augers and other mechanical transfer equipment are minimized or even eliminated. Replacing mechanical equipment with an air conveying system also reduces the number of moving parts to maintain.

"It does a good job, picks the material up nice and clean, with less ash in the product compared to chopping and raking, which is another method sometimes used to harvest stalks," Schafer says.

The Loftness air-powered units are currently offered in a 20 ft. width, are manufactured in Hector, Minn., and distributed through their North American dealers.

Schafer encourages interested farmers to contact them through the website or their closest dealer for information and pricing details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Loftness, 650 S. Main St., Hector, Minn. 55342 (ph 800-828-7624; info@loftness.com; www.loftness.com).



What makes the downsized combines so popular is they fit small-scale trial plots, typically around 15 ft. in length and 5 ft. in width.

Mini Combines Built To Harvest Small Plots

To help harvest small research plots for universities, agribusinesses, and government researchers, Austrian company Wintersteiger produces mini combines suitable for rice, corn, wheat, barley, soybeans, sunflowers, canola, plus many other crops.

"If there are trials and research with crops, we have a plot combine for the job," says Cory Pearson, Sales and Service Manager for the Wintersteiger, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, office. "We sell them worldwide to foodstuff and biofuel companies for their research."

Some of Wintersteiger's repeat customers include Coors, Orville Redenbacher, BASF, and Monsanto.

Pearson explains what makes the downsized combines so popular is they fit small-scale trial plots, typically around 15 ft. in length and 5 ft. in width. Additionally, full-size combines need to be run full of material to be efficient, while the small combines run full on smaller amounts of product.

Wintersteiger produces two different

models of combine, both with technological options including GPS, crop identification, weights, and moisture contents. Units come equipped with straight-cut headers for platform, corn, soybean, or sunflowers.

The plot combines are manufactured in Austria and distributed through North American offices to the U.S. and Canada.

"The combines are constantly changing due to advances in technology," Pearson says. "Our biggest challenge is trying to bring people up to the current level of technology. Of course, technology is often changing faster than our brains can decipher it."

Wintersteiger sells or leases their plot combines, which range in cost from \$250,000 to \$425,000 (USD) depending on headers, technology included, model, and size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cory Pearson, Wintersteiger Seedmech, 851-57 Street East, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 5Z2 (ph 855-216-6537; cory.pearson@wintersteiger.com; www.wintersteiger.com).