

Tool Repairs Dented Feeder Drums

Walter and Albert Hofer offer pre and post-solution options for rock-denting on Macdon and Deere feeder drums. Their preventive measure is to install their Rock Dam (Vol. 50, No. 1). If damage has already occurred or a rock slips past the Rock Dam, they recommend their Drum Reconditioning Tool (DRT).

“Drum fingers will jam a rock into the feeder house, denting the drum and often breaking or bending the finger,” explains Albert Hofer of TrueLine Manufacturing. “Draper headers are made out of thin metal, and it doesn’t take much of a dent before you can’t replace a finger.”

He notes that the damaged finger is usually where the dent is located.

“The dent doesn’t allow you to put the bushing and new finger back in place,” says Hofer.

After dealing with the problem on their own draper headers, they applied their custom metal fabrication expertise to develop the DRT. The first prototype was simply two steel plates connected by a nut and bolt. They tightened the nut until the dent disappeared.

They refined the concept to make it faster and easier. The DRT kit includes dies that match the drum’s curvature, a 15-ton hydraulic ram and a hand pump.

As with their first effort, a die is slipped into the drum over the dent. A second die is placed on the drum surface, and the hydraulic jack is attached.

“Simply pump the jack until it doesn’t go, then remove it and the dies,” says Hofer.

When a neighbor mentioned needing to replace his dented drum, the brothers took



TrueLine Drum Reconditioning Tool (DRT).

their tool over to see what it could do.

“Replacement can cost about \$3,000,” says Hofer. “We took his dents out, and he never did replace it.”

As with other TrueLine products, once it was proven on their farm and on neighbors’ farms, it was added to their product line. The DRT is available directly from the company for \$900 USD. The kit weighs 25 lbs. and fits a 14 by 12 by 12-in. case.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, TrueLine Manufacturing, 41328 Range Rd. 41, Rimbey, Alberta, Canada T0C 2J0 (ph 403-588-9420; www.truelinemfg.ca).



Gradual 30-degree rearward slope ensures easy unloading of grain and mixed or pelleted feeds.

Unique Gooseneck Grain Trailers

D&K Trailers’ Grain Master Gooseneck Trailers are transforming how smaller farmers transport their harvests. Built for versatility and efficiency, the Grain Master has an 8 by 12-ft. box with up to three extensions for increased capacity. Its gradual 30-degree rearward slope allows for easy unloading of grain and mixed or pelleted feeds, making it ideal for farmers who need reliability and ease of use.

All Grain Master models come standard with a gooseneck hitch. The 20-ft. trailers can hold between 325 and 450 bushels, and their 2-axle, 8-wheel dually setup is designed for stability. D&K offers three different axle sizes to suit various needs.

Poly Minimizer fenders, made from durable hard plastic, prevent rust and breakage while keeping debris away from the wheels and trailer sides. Models come in a variety of colors. A key feature of the design is that only 12% of the weight is transferred to the hitch, reducing stress on a truck’s suspension.

“It’s typically the smaller farms that are the Grain Master’s target market,” says D&K owner Brad Penlerick. “Those who want

to haul grain to elevators or ethanol plants without hiring a larger semi. They’re perfect for them as the trailers can be pulled by 3/4 or 1-ton trucks at highway speeds. Even a half-ton truck can handle them.”

The trailers come equipped with brakes, lights, turn signals, a breakaway box, and safety chains for peace of mind. Optional features include a 2-speed jack and a rollover electric tarp with a key fob, for added convenience.

“Tarps are optional, but most buyers opt for the deluxe 18-oz. heavy-duty Sherlock truck tarps that protect loads from the elements,” says Penlerick.

Manufactured in Nebraska and available across North America, Grain Master trailers are sold directly or through select dealers. Entry-level models start around \$15,000 for the 325-bushel size, with prices rising to \$18,500 for larger models and those with higher-end features.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, D&K Trailers, P.O. Box 158, 102 E. Cedar, Coleridge, Neb. 68727 (ph 866-308-4849; dktrailers@nntc.net; www.dktrailers.com).



Claas Technoparc celebrates the company’s history. It officially opened in 1992 as the company’s leading exhibition and customer center at the Harsewinkel headquarters.

German Museum Features Tractors Old And New

The Claas Harsewinkel factory in Germany offers an unforgettable experience for all Claas equipment enthusiasts.

“Claas is a family-owned agricultural machinery company that traces its roots back to 1913, when August Claas officially founded the business in Clarholz, Germany, to manufacture and improve straw binders—machines that tied together straw bundles after harvest,” says company spokesperson John Schofield.

August’s father, Franz Claas, made milk centrifuges and early farm machines as early as 1887.

“August and his brother grew the company as they focused on design improvements. After WWI, the brothers moved operations to Harsewinkel, Germany, in 1919, where Claas remains headquartered today.”

In the decades since, the company has expanded its product lines to include combine harvesters, forage harvesters, tractors, balers and smart-farming technology.

“Claas became a European market leader

in combines and a global leader in self-propelled forage harvesters,” says Schofield.

Today, the Technoparc celebrates this history. It officially opened in 1992 as the company’s leading exhibition and customer center at the Harsewinkel headquarters. The Technoparc aims to show all visitors how Claas has met and continues to meet the needs of professional farmers worldwide.

“It’s an interactive exhibition space where visitors can explore the latest Claas innovations across tractors, combine harvesters and smart farming tech,” says Schofield. “It also serves as a display venue for historical machines and prototypes and a complement to Harsewinkel factory tours.”

Claas is best known for its forage harvesters and combines. A visit to the museum is a reminder that it has always had a forward-thinking approach to developing other machines, such as tractors, especially those in a multi-function “systems” capacity.

“At more than a century old with continuous family involvement, Claas has

maintained a long-term, innovation-focused strategy,” says Schofield. “We’re the largest family-owned company in the farm machinery industry.”

Visitors are free to explore the 27,000 sq. ft. showrooms on their own.

“Be sure to check out historic prototypes like the XERION Project 207 and modern Claas machinery like the latest tractor and combine models on display, including LEXION, JAGUAR and XERION series,” Schofield says. “The exhibits are constantly changing to showcase innovation, and a lounge area and merchandise shop offer

branded items. Plan ahead if you want a tour. Availability can vary by season and demand.”

Claas builds the LEXION combine in Omaha, Neb., and sells it to farmers across the U.S. A new “Customer Experience Center” is scheduled to open at the Nebraska site in the summer of 2026.

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Visitors can discover the newest Claas innovations, along with historic machines and prototypes.