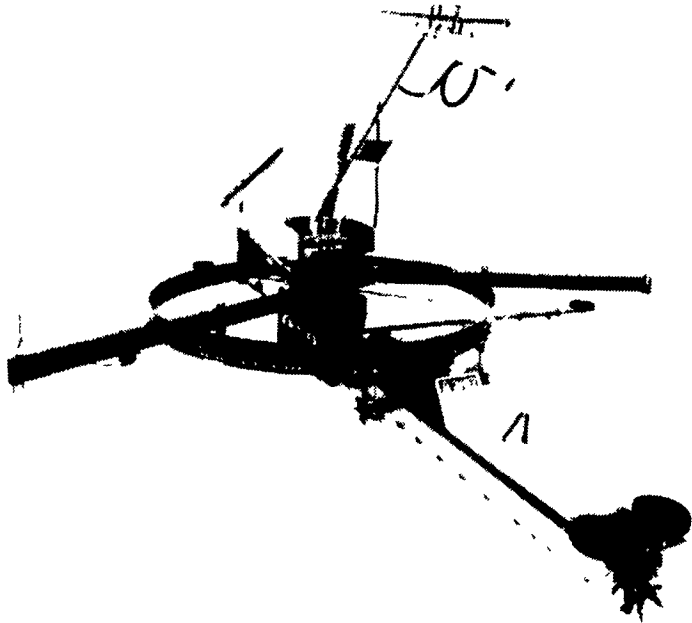




BUSINESS NEWS...



The Volumaster silage distributor/unloader has been introduced by Butler Livestock Systems.

Butler cites silage unloader

FORK ATKINSON, Wi. — Butler Livestock Systems, the company that invented the refined ring drive unloaders, recently introduced the Volumaster silage distributor/unloader. This new machine was designed to incorporate proven advantages of the Butler/Jamesway Volumatic III system with 25 new features for cost-effective feeding management.

"One way the Volumaster system helps farmers better manage their forage is through its big filling capacity," points out Butler Vice-President of Sales and Marketing, John Neill. He attributes this to Butler's powered distribution system, which evenly packs 19% more silage into the silo than with no distribution, 8% more than nonpowered competitive distributors.

"By making the most of silo space, this feature can reduce storage cost per ton," said Neill. "Furthermore, because it evenly distributes and uniformly compacts silage, it promotes controlled fermentation to retain the nutritive value of the feed."

Another benefit of the Volumaster system is faster feeding. It results from a number of new features which combine energy efficiency with high capacity of optimum performance.

"Just as important," added Neill, "the Volumaster silage distributor/unloader is built to last longer with new lower-maintenance features." Those components that do require routine servicing are designed so farmers can get at them more easily.

"Key to the improved performance of the Volumaster system in Butler's experience as an industry leader in power ring drive unloaders," he continued. "We have more unloaders on the market than any other brand. With a reputation like that to live up to, when we introduce a new machine, farmers know they can expect the best."

For additional information on the new Volumaster silage distributor/unloader, contact: Butler Livestock Systems, 801 Janesville Avenue, Fort Atkinson, Wi., 53538. Telephone: (414) 563-5521.

Smith adds manure system

MIDLAND, Va. — The Smith Cattleguard Co., Midland, Va., has added the Easi-Stor Manure Storage System to its line of precast concrete farm products.

SCC V.P. Doug Flory, who holds

a degree in Agricultural Economics from Va. Tech, worked with leading Va. farmers to develop a system that is adaptable to the wide variations in needs and available space on individual farms. In addition, the Easi-Stor is

low cost in both initial construction and in long-lasting, maintenance-free service and is designed to accommodate standard manure handling accessories.

The Easi-Stor is constructed of 12' high x 8' wide steel-reinforced precast concrete panels. The panels are bolted together and supported by perpendicular buttresses. All joints are butyl sealed. A poured concrete floor and backfill around the base complete the installation.

The Easi-Stor system can be conveniently located adjacent to barns for direct scrape-in loading. Unlike most lagoons, this durable storage system withstands the traffic of farm equipment for thorough cleaning out. The impermeability of precast concrete provides easy compliance with pollution abatement standards.



The Easi-Stor Manure Storage System has been announced by Smith Cattleguard.

A. O. Smith unveils computer dairy mgt. systems

MINNEAPOLIS, Mn. — A.O. Smith Farm Management Products (FMPD) division is unveiling a new release of its Agri-Key Dairy Herd Management Systems in July through participating A.O. Smith Harvestore Products dealers.

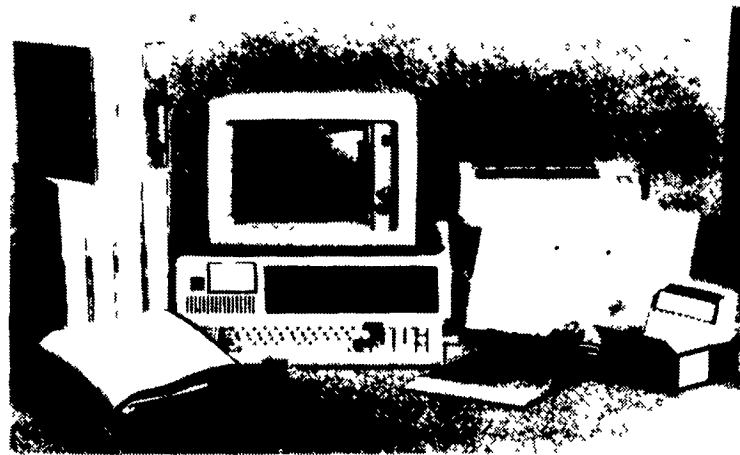
"The Agri-Key Dairy Herd Management Systems utilize A.O. Smith-developed software and IBM hardware to help livestock managers monitor and control their operations," Roger H. Zorn, FMPD general manager, said. "They allow owners to become more efficient in their management of production, breeding, analyzing and planning. Most importantly, owners may use an Agri-Key system to anticipate and respond to potential problems before they get out of hand."

Specific programs to be released later in the year will assist farmers to develop timely accounting and cash flow information, monitor machine maintenance needs, and record valuable crop data, Zorn said.

The new release of the Agri-Key Systems, which may be used in a monochrome or color mode, incorporates numerous software enhancements based on FMPD's requests for recommendations from farmers who used the previous version to manage their operations. As a result, the new release gives users greater flexibility in how they adapt each program to their particular needs.

Agri-Key is being made available initially in North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and New York. The system will be marketed in the remainder of North America as the division grows and demands develop, Zorn said.

Zorn said that three factors dominated A.O. Smith's decision to



enter the farm computer management field:

First was the proven success and acceptance of the company and its subsidiaries in agriculture, based on high quality A.O. Smith Harvestore products, service and support.

Second was the company's knowledge and experience in the world of data processing.

Third was recognition of an insatiable thirst of farmers for new ways to improve management efficiency and productivity.

In addition to helping farmers shorten calving intervals, upgrade herd traits, and promote good herd health, Agri-Key is designed to track milk production by providing detailed performance reports on each cow, groups of cows, and herd average. It also will track other elements that contribute to a dairy manager's income, such as Somatic Cell count, butterfat, and protein results for each cow.

Additional important decision-making information includes cow and calf cash value, age, lactations, pregnancies, days open, breeding and vet costs, and production history.

"A computer system essentially is a central storage bank to be drawn upon as needed," Zorn said. "As such, the Agri-Key systems complement information provided by the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), university soil test labs, feed nutrition labs, and other agribusiness groups, by allowing each farm manager to place data from these groups into one or more easily accessed programs."

"Properly used," Zorn said, "Agri-Key itself does not make decisions; as a management system, it points out areas requiring analysis and timely judgment and allows owners to make informed decisions."

Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, A.O. Smith offers a diversified selection of products and services, including the Agri-Key Dairy Herd Management System. Its product lines include electric motors, agricultural feed storage and handling systems, auto and truck structural components, water heating equipment, fiber glass reinforced plastic piping systems, computer services and software, and agricultural financing.

MF announces forage blowers

DES MOINES, Ia. — Quick, safe and efficient forage delivery to the silo are key requirements of any forage blower system.

The new MF 674 and MF 676 Forage Blowers from Massey-Ferguson meet these qualifications.

Operators can choose between the economical 1000 PTO rpm MF 674 blower with its 40-inch fan, or the 540 PTO rpm MF 676 blower with a 54-inch fan. Both blowers are equipped with a heavy-duty 55 Series PTO drive. A heavy duty driveline provides needle bearing reserve life.

The PTO shearbolts on both models protects unit from damage due to plugs and "jackrabbit"

starts. A conveniently located, full-width clutch throwout also helps prevent expensive equipment damage.

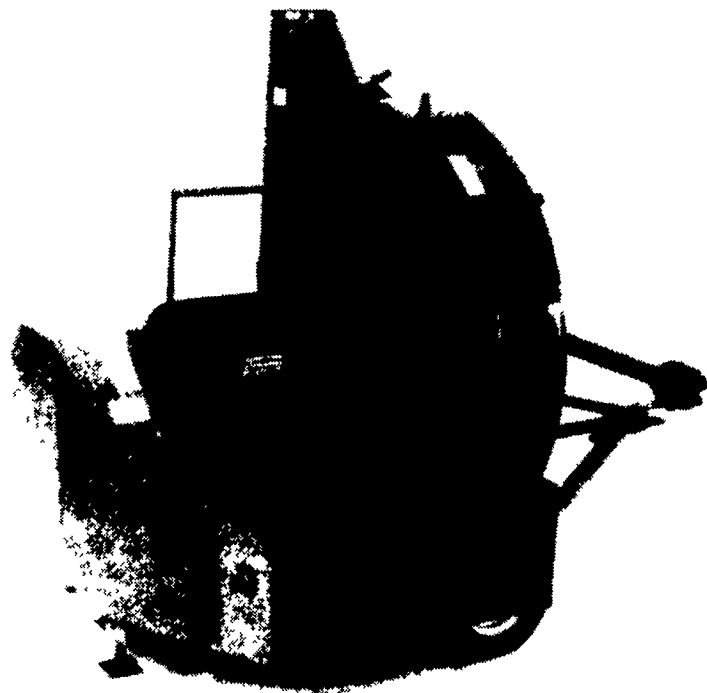
"Throw Action" Hopper

Both models feature a "throw action" shaker hopper, which, together with the 10-inch diameter lower cross auger, keeps material moving at a steady, even rate. The 34½ inch hopper, reduces box

discharge spilling and the need for precise box "spotting".

Cupped blower paddles concentrate material stream for optimum crop flow.

A water inlet nozzle is standard on both models. The MF 674 and 676 also can be equipped with a hopper magnet to help reduce chances of metal getting into the silo.



Massey-Ferguson has introduced two new forage blowers for quick, safe and efficient silo filling. Farmers can choose between the economical 1000 PTO rpm MF 674 blower with its 40-inch fan, or the 540 PTO rpm MF 676 blower with a 54-inch fan.