



The new Titan III fertilizer tank offers a 600-bu capacity (top) and easily converts to a grain cart at harvest (bottom).



#### TITAN III FERTILIZER TANK

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"That's because it's a non-pressurized tank. So it doesn't require a sealed lid, which opens it up to other uses," says Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of SeedMaster. "It's essentially a very large, rugged steel cart on two big wheels, with a roll tarp cover. In five minutes, it can be unhooked from the drill, and hitched to a tractor at harvest for transporting grain from the combine." He adds the technology converting the Titan III into a large fertilizer spreader is being developed.

Instead of using pressurized air for the primary movement of fertilizer, the Titan III features an auger system that efficiently moves fertilizer from the tank to the drill where it is metered and blown through hoses to the openers.

#### Auger System Solves Air Delivery Problems

The auger system solves the delivery problems of pressurized air tanks that use bulk metering systems, and require a lot of air, hydraulics and large fans to blast high rates of seed and fertilizer to the openers on large air drills. Those systems often result in seed coat damage, seed bounce, and blow out, says Beaujot. As well, everything is blown through long transfer hoses - up to 75 feet on the widest drills - pushing the tractor's hydraulic system to the limit, and causing costly problems like plugging.

The auger cuts the length of the delivery hose runs in half - eliminating plugging and dramatically reducing hydraulic demands. "We save 12 to 15 gallons/minute in hydraulic fluid just by using two 6-inch fans, instead of the 8-inch fans typical on large air tanks," says Beaujot.

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#### Individual Row Metering

SeedMaster is the only air drill that can offer a non-pressurized tank, because instead of bulk metering, its seed tanks feature Individual Row Metering, which doesn't rely on pressurized air. "Our seed tank sits on the drill frame, continuously metering seeds with rollers that drop them gently into air hoses leading directly to the openers. It's an extremely accurate and gentle way of metering seed. And it avoids the seed damage common in bulk metering," says Beaujot.

Without Individual Row Metering, he says the non-pressurized, 3-in-1 design of the Titan III - that gives farmers a new way to stretch their dollars - wouldn't have been possible.

# THE MASTER SEEDER

YOUR PRECISION SEEDING NEWSLETTER

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## Largest Seeding Tank System in North America Unveiled



The new Titan III fertilizer tank combines with SeedMaster's on-board seed tank to provide a 920-bu carrying capacity - the largest in North America.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Another Year of Steady Growth & Cost-Saving Innovations



It's been another exciting year of R&D breakthroughs here at SeedMaster. We've developed several new innovations that help farmers gain greater efficiencies in the field to widen their profit margins.

This year, we're testing a new overlap control system called FLIP (Full Last Implement Pass) that almost entirely eliminates implement overlap on your fields - saving thousands of dollars on mid-to-large sized operations (see page 3). We've also designed a new hydraulic Lift Kit that redistributes weight on your seed drill, so you won't get stuck in the mud (see page 3). Our biggest innovation this year - literally - is the Titan III fertilizer tank, a versatile, 3-in-1 system that combines with our on-board seed tank to offer the largest commercial carrying capacity on the continent. It converts easily into a grain cart or fertilizer spreader (see page 4) for outstanding equipment savings.

#### 30% Production Increase

It's that kind of efficiency and the exceptional precision of our seeding technology that drives demand for our products. That's also the reason we sold out again this year and our production increased by 30% despite the economy. And it's the reason we're embarking on another major expansion at our Regina manufacturing facility.

We're building about 3,500 square feet of office space, and a conference and training room for

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#### New Titan III Fertilizer Tank

To keep pace with its 80- and 90-foot air drills, SeedMaster has developed a 600-bushel, multi-season fertilizer tank called the Titan III. It's a non-pressurized, tow-behind tank that combines with SeedMaster's 320-bushel, on-board seed tank to provide the largest carrying capacity of any commercial seeding tank system in North America.

#### 920-Bushel Combined Carrying Capacity

The 920-bushel capacity allows farmers to seed a quarter section without stopping to refill their tanks - based on a seed rate of 2 bu/acre, and a fertilizer rate of 200 lbs/acre.

Dean McPherson, who farms near Yellow Grass, SK, says the large capacity of the Titan III could significantly reduce the time he spends filling, and help seed his crop faster. He currently pulls a 440-bushel air tank behind his 88-foot SeedMaster. "With such limited capacity, we go through product fairly quickly - about

every hour and a half. I could seed another 40 acres in the time it takes to stop and refill."

#### Multi-Season, 3-in-1 Tank

In addition to being the biggest, the Titan III is also a multi-use tank that quickly converts into a grain cart at harvest or a fertilizer spreader - extending its use into other seasons.

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**Norbert Beaujot says this steel component is a good example of the precision cutting that can now be done in-house with SeedMaster's new laser cutter - streamlining production and accelerating R&D.**

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

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dealers and new SeedMaster owners this summer. We're running out of office space as we hire new staff to keep up with demand. We're pleased to welcome Ron Braden to our marketing and business development team. Ron used to work with Accutrak and is well connected on the international scene as we explore potential markets in Kazakhstan, Australia, China and South America where farmers seed thousands of hectares - a good fit for our 88- and 90-foot drills. The prairies will always be our prime market. But the technology that works so well



**Ron Braden**

for farmers here also offers tremendous value to overseas producers who face similar circumstances and challenges.

### Major Expansion Plans

We're also running out of space on our manufacturing floor with the recent purchase of a new state-of-the-art laser cutter that allows us to do the precision cutting of all steel components in-house - streamlining our production process.

As we continue unveiling new tank designs, and as more farmers recognize the advantages of our Individual Row Metering system, we'll be adding 19,000 square feet of manufacturing space over the next two years to make way for full tank production. There's a lot of room for improvement on the tanks that are out there now.

Drop by our booth at the Farm Progress Show. We're a key sponsor of the Preview Day, and this year we've got a bigger booth than ever to showcase products like our Titan III, Liquid Sulky fertilizer carts, and CT drills. Stop in to learn about our newest innovations and the efficiencies they can add to your operation. See you there!

**Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng.**

*President, SeedMaster*

## Smart Hitch Helps Advance Tall Stubble Research

### New Plot Seeder Built for AAFC

A whole new chapter of research exploring the benefits of seeding into tall stubble is about to unfold in Swift Current, SK - with a new SeedMaster plot seeder that was just built for research scientist Herb Cutforth.



**Herb Cutforth**

The new 18-foot seeder is equipped with Smart Hitch technology that will allow Cutforth to advance his research by seeding *between* stubble rows, rather than seeding directly into standing stubble.

### Seeding Between Rows for Higher Yields

"In the 15 years I've been doing tall stubble research, I've always wanted to seed between the stubble rows so I can leave as much stubble standing as possible to promote higher yields. Now with the Smart Hitch, I can do that," says Cutforth, who works with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Swift Current.

Until now, his research has been limited to wheat stubble, which is resilient and bounces back after openers knock it down when crossing over stubble rows. With the Smart Hitch, Cutforth can now investigate potential yield increases in different stubble, like canola, which breaks more easily when openers cross through it.

### Up to 17% Yield Increase

"I think the Smart Hitch will promote significantly higher retention of canola stubble, which should impact yields," says Cutforth. His research so far has found yields increase as stubble heights increase - with average yield increases of up to 17% when seeding canola, wheat, and pulses into wheat stubble up to 18 inches high, compared to cultivated fields.

It's because the stubble protects the seedlings from wind, traps more snow for greater soil moisture, and creates a microclimate that conserves water for plant use and keeps the plants warmer, explains Cutforth.

He now plans to cut stubble up to 24 inches high and beyond, adding he's curious to see just how tall he can push stubble heights by seeding between the rows.

His new plot seeder features the same Smart Hitch and precision seeding technology found on all SeedMasters, including the largest 80- and 90-foot models, says Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of SeedMaster. "It's equipped with the same openers, side row banding, and Individual Row Metering. Everything's identical."

"It's always positive to use the most current technology when doing research," says Cutforth, adding he likes SeedMaster's simple design and the depth control of its terrain-following openers.

### Second SeedMaster Plot Seeder

Cutforth's new drill is the second SeedMaster plot seeder built in the last year for use by AAFC researchers. Dr. Guy Lafond launched a study this spring at AAFC in Indian Head, SK, comparing 10, 12, 14 and 16-inch row spacing using a SeedMaster plot seeder.

"The research that Dr. Lafond and Dr. Cutforth are doing with our plot seeders offers farmers tremendous value," says Beaujot, "because it uses the same seeding technology producers are using. So the results are directly transferable to their operations."



**AAFC's new SeedMaster plot seeder (shown here before the tanks and Individual Row Metering were installed) will be used to advance tall stubble research.**

## A Simple Solution to a Costly Problem

### SeedMaster Creates New Overlap Control System

As farmers search for new ways to lower their costs per acre, SeedMaster has discovered a new solution to the costly problem of implement overlap.

"Not all land is sectioned off perfectly. And obstacles like sloughs and creeks often get in the way, leaving producers with odd-shaped fields. So it's common to end up with overlap areas that get double-seeded and double-fertilized - even when you're using GPS to map out your fields, and you've chosen the best drill width to match your fields," says Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of SeedMaster.

### Almost Completely Eliminates Overlap

The solution is a new approach to implement overlap that almost completely eliminates the problem. "It's surprisingly simple and much more economical than other technology on the market that tries to do the same thing," says Beaujot.

"The usual approach to implement overlap is to shut off product the second time you pass over an overlap area - to prevent double-spraying or double-seeding," he says. Some air seeders on the market have implement overlap systems that not only shut off product flow, they also use hydraulics to lift openers out of the ground - to avoid disturbing seeds already planted in the overlap area.

"But lifting openers on one side of the drill is like taking a wing off an airplane," says

Beaujot. "Everything veers sideways because the forces in the ground are no longer balanced, messing up the seed bed and row spacing, and impacting yields."

### FLIP - Full Last Implement Pass

SeedMaster takes the opposite approach to implement overlap with new patent-pending technology called FLIP, which stands for Full Last Implement Pass.

"It makes more sense to shut the seed and fertilizer flow off the first time the openers encounter an overlap area," he explains. "So when they pass through a second time, they're not ripping up any seed bed - and there's no need to lift openers. Lifting and lowering specific openers on demand adds a lot of unnecessary hydraulic components and added cost."

FLIP is a little black box programmed with mapping software that links directly into the GPS systems farmers already use to map their fields. "It identifies the overlap areas and automatically turns off delivery of seed and fertilizer to specific openers. It's easy to use and very economical," says Beaujot.



**SeedMaster's New FLIP System takes a new and simple approach to implement overlap - almost completely eliminating costly overlaps - without lifting openers from the ground.**

### A Better Solution than Lifting Openers

"It sounds like a better solution than lifting openers because it's less complex mechanically. As a producer, I'd be interested in investigating it further," says Ross Welford, a University of Saskatchewan assistant professor in Agriculture and Bio-Resources, who farms about 3,000 acres east of North Battleford. With his own input costs close to \$150/acre, Wel-

ford says, "The more efficient producers can be with inputs, the more potential there is for profit."

Beaujot estimates FLIP could shave as much as five to eight per cent off input costs. "If your inputs are \$200/acre, that's a potential savings of \$10/acre."

SeedMaster is testing a prototype of FLIP, and expects to have it market-ready by 2010.

## New 'Lift Kit' Helps Prevent Getting Stuck in the Mud

### Redistributes Weight on the Drill

With only a few weeks of ideal seeding time each spring, getting stuck in the mud can be a major setback - easily wasting a half day of valuable time and labour to pull your drill out.

The only way to prevent getting stuck is to avoid seeding muddy sections of your field until they dry out. But SeedMaster has developed a new active hydraulic system that gives farmers another option.

It's called the Lift Kit and it redistributes weight on the drill, giving it much more floatability to pass through muddy areas without getting stuck.

"The reason drills get stuck is the terrain-following openers transfer weight to the front of the drill when they're seeding. So when you hit a muddy spot, the front caster wheels tend to start sinking," explains Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., president of SeedMaster. It's a problem with all drills. It's even worse with those that place fertilizer in a mid row band because they have considerably more weight on the front of the drill, he adds.

### Superior Floatability

The Lift Kit remedies the problem with active hydraulics that transfer forces from the front of the drill onto the tractor tires and to the back of the drill - both areas

that can easily handle the extra weight without sacrificing floatability, explains Beaujot.

The patent-pending Lift Kit is an option on all new SeedMaster drills. It bolts onto the frame and is automatically pressured up by the drill's hydraulic system.

### Lengthens Life of Your Drill

SeedMaster is including a free Lift Kit with the first 20 air drills ordered for spring 2010. "If your drill sinks deep into the mud and you need three tractors to pull it out, it can really stress the frame members. The Lift Kit helps avoid that situation, and lengthens the life of your drill," says Beaujot.