

THE MASTER SEEDER

YOUR PRECISION SEEDING NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 2 | WINTER 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2nd Annual Master Seeders Conference



Excitement is building here at Seed Master as our 2nd Annual Master Seeders conference approaches.

Producers keep telling us how much they appreciate an annual conference focused completely on seeding. We'll be at the Queensbury Convention Centre at Ipsco Place (Exhibition grounds) in Regina on November 20 this year.

New Compact-In-Transport Drill

We'll have ample parking and some Seed Master drills set up outside, including a 70-foot Compact-In-Transport drill. It folds 18-feet wide and 17-

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Compact-In-Transport Drill Poised to Make Big Impact



Narrow Folding Air Drill - Seed Master's new Compact-In-Transport line offers drills up to 70-foot wide (shown here) that fold to 18 feet for transport.

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Conference Registration Info

When Doug Fitterer went shopping for a new air drill this summer, he was trying to solve two major issues on his farm.

Seed depth with his old drill wasn't uniform, so he stopped growing canola until he could find a better air seeder. The precision seed placement and uniform emergence he witnessed on other farms convinced him Seed Master was the solution to growing oilseeds again.

Wide drill - Narrow Fold

Fitterer also needed a wider air drill that offered big savings in time, fuel and labour - but folded small enough to pass through several bridges between his fields near New England, North Dakota.

First, he found a used 80-foot Seed Master that could only be shipped fully assembled - a difficult task in southwestern North Dakota where many rural roads and bridges are too narrow for the 24-foot, 6-inch transport width of the 80-footer. (Some manufacturers offer 80-foot drills wider than 28 feet in transport.)

Then Fitterer discovered Seed Master's new Compact-In-Transport (CT) line, offering drills up to 70-foot wide that fold to 18 feet for transport. "I can haul this drill anywhere, without detouring around bridges to get to my fields, or worrying about vehicles popping over the hill, or slowing traffic down," he says.

Narrower is always better and safer on the road, says

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The Future of Seed Metering

Ultimate Precision and Seed Damage Protection

Seed Master is developing a new generation of seed metering technology that will eliminate any risk of seed damage - common in bulk metering systems - and provide a degree of precision and accuracy that, until now, could only be achieved with complex, high-priced singulators, says Norbert Beaujot, P.Eng., President of Seed Master.

Most air seeders use bulk metering, where large volumes of seed are dumped into air streams. The seeds slam into manifold distribution plates, splitting the bulk stream into different directions for final distribution. The result is often seed damage and poor distribution uniformity, which can seriously impact yields.

"With canola, you could easily assume there'd be five per cent damage," says Lawrence Papworth, project engineer for Alberta's Agriculture Technology Centre in Lethbridge. "Most people compensate by adjusting their seeds per acre. If you could save that five per cent, it would add up quickly."

Individual Row Metering

The new Seed Master system will perform individual row metering at the seed tank - the same approach already found on Seed Master air drills. But instead of using tiny cups to dispense seed, a series of metering rollers will continuously measure the exact amount of seed required for every foot of seed row - and gently drop it into individual tubes leading directly to individual row openers.

Uniform Seed Spacing

"You can't beat the gentleness and accuracy of individual row metering," says Beaujot. "We've developed rollers for specific seed types and optimal spacing down the row. The rollers will pick up larger seeds, like corn and soybeans, one seed at a time - planting them a uniform distance apart, closely replicating the effect of singulators."

"Anytime you have more even seed distribution down the row, it adds to yield and uniform growth," says Beaujot. "When you combine that with the elimination of



New Seed Metering Technology that closely replicates high-priced singulators, and enhances the individual row metering already found on Seed Master air drills (shown here) is being developed by Seed Master.

seed damage common in bulk metering, the advantages of this system are huge."

Papworth says farmers who use bulk metering can reduce seed damage by cutting the air speed of their fans - but

only if they slow down the tractor as well. "Farmers keep seeding more acres, and want to go faster - not slower. A system that eliminates the issue of seed damage would be of great benefit."

New Expandable Fertilizer Cart System

Tag-along Units Offer Largest Carrying Capacity on the Market

To help producers keep pace with the need for bigger machines to work bigger farms, Seed Master has developed a two-wheeled, tow-behind liquid fertilizer cart system that easily expands to provide the largest carrying capacity on the market.

Refined Engineering

"You can't offer the massive carrying capacity farmers need for liquid fertilizer with a single carrier without pushing the weight bearing limits of the wheels," says Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of Seed Master. "So we've come up with a clean, well-crafted, tag-along design. Producers can add a second unit - doubling its size - creating a fully integrated, 4,300 Imperial gallon articulating cart."

Loaded with Deluxe Features

The second cart plumbs directly into the systems on the lead unit, which is loaded with a deluxe



Seed Master's new Sulky Cart features a tag-along design that allows producers to add a second unit - offering the largest carrying capacity on the market.

twin piston John Blue metering pump, a three-inch fill pump, and a hand washing station. Each cart is cone-bottomed for easy drainage and optimal durability, carrying 2,150 Imperial gallons.

2-Wheel, Sulky Design

"It's named the Sulky Cart because of its light, two-wheeled racing cart design, for maneuverability and speed," says Beaujot. "Instead of a complex four-wheel caddy with a steering mechanism, our two-wheeled cart transfers the weight that would normally be carried by a second set of wheels onto the Seed Master frame. You can't do that with most drills."

Seed Master's terrain-following openers set depth independently of the frame. So unlike most drills, weight can be placed on the rear eight-by-six steel beams of the frame without affecting the drill's precision seed and fertilizer placement.

Works Better in Mud

"With just two large wheels and no steering system, our Sulky Carts offer superior balance and floatability over systems that try to be this big with one trailer," says Beaujot. "Four-wheel caddies with pivoting wheels can be troublesome in mud. This two-wheel system pulls through much easier."

"By reducing the amount of complicated machinery needed to make something work, you reduce cost and minimize the potential for things to go wrong," he explains.

Seed Master is now taking orders for its Sulky Carts. Like other Seed Master products, its bolt-together design makes shipping easier and less costly for farmers. "All components also fit into our metal blasting chamber and powder coat paint booth, ensuring the high-quality finish farmers expect from Seed Master," says Beaujot.

"We're developing tow-behind, granular carts over the next two years, but we're committed to keeping our seed tanks on-frame for unbeatable metering precision and seed handling gentleness," he adds.

New Plot Seeder Sparks Wide Row Spacing Studies

AAFC Research Launched



Dr. Guy Lafond

Research scientist Dr. Guy Lafond is eager to launch a new study this spring exploring wide row spacing - up to 14 and 16 inches wide - using a new plot seeder designed by Seed Master.

"I've done lots of row spacing research, but I have never gone beyond 12 inches because I didn't have the right equipment," says Dr. Lafond, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Indian Head, renowned for his extensive row spacing studies in the 80s and 90s.

"We know farmers can seed successfully on 12-inch spacing without losing yield (with proper separation of seed and fertilizer), but we don't have scientific data on wider spacings. With this new plot seeder, we'll look at 10,12,14, and 16-inch spacing and analyze yields as fertilizer concentration increases on wider rows," says Dr. Lafond. He plans to seed oilseed, cereal and pulse crops into numerous stubble heights, with varying nitrogen rates over the next few years.

Wider Rows = Greater Benefits

The wider farmers can push row spacing, the more they save on equipment and energy because fewer openers are required - allowing them to use bigger drills without needing bigger tractors - and to seed more acres faster, says Dr. Lafond.

Wider rows also make it easier to cut stubble taller and seed between the rows with equipment like Seed Master's Smart Hitch™ - for a cleaner seed bed, wind protection and reduced evaporation for seedlings.



Seed Master's New Plot Seeder - Eight openers slide on a track and are pinned into position, for quick and easy row spacing changes.

Record Yields at 14 Inches

Seed Master has explored 14-inch spacing on its research farm for the last two years with record yields on wheat and canola this fall, says Cory Beaujot, Marketing Manager for Seed Master. "Advancing the science of direct seeding is our mandate. While we're confident 14-inch spacing offers excellent yields, we believe it's very valuable for farmers when scientists of Dr. Lafond's calibre do independent studies, and really scrutinize the details."

The Seed Master plot seeder features the same precision seed and fertilizer placement as large Seed Masters used by hundreds of progressive Prairie farmers. It was built this fall for the Indian Head Agriculture Research Foundation (IHARF) - a growers group that works closely with the Indian Head Research Farm. The plot seeder is now one of two drills used for AAFC research in Indian Head.

Cutting-Edge Technology

Dr. Lafond is excited to resume row spacing studies using the most advanced commercial technology. "We can

do true no-till now and side band the fertilizer, so the results should be very transferable for farmers."

In past row spacing research, Dr. Lafond broadcast nitrogen and seed placed phosphorus with an older style drill on 4-inch row spacing. "It caused unnecessary soil disturbance because all openers remained in the ground whether we seeded at 4 or 12 inches. I could only adjust row spacing by diverting seeds to certain openers."

Row spacing changes with the new plot seeder are quick and easy, says Dr. Lafond. Eight openers slide on a track and are pinned into position.

"Firm Believer" in 14-inch Spacing

Griffin, SK producer Marcel Van Staveren is a firm believer in 14-inch row spacing. The Van Staverens have gotten their best flax crops ever - with 2008 yields approaching 40 bu/acre - since buying an 80-foot Seed Master on 14-inch spacing two years ago. "We had record canola yields this fall with a 2.8 lb/acre seeding rate, saving \$55,000 on seed."

"It would be nice to see research that confirms what we're doing. If Dr. Lafond discovers 16 inches is viable, we would certainly consider it," he adds.



Marcel Van Staveren has gotten his best flax crops ever, on 14-inch row spacing with an 80-foot Seed Master.

COMPACT-IN-TRANSPORT DRILL

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Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of Seed Master. "Our CT line offers producers the best of both worlds. It gives them wide drills to seed large farms in the midst of labour shortages, and solves transport headaches such as busy, narrow roads and bridges that limit where wide drills can go."

The M-Fold Secret

The secret behind the CT line is the M-fold - a key design feature of Seed Master's 80- and 90-foot drills. "We realized the M-fold not only allows us to build the largest air seeders in North America - it also gives us 50-to-70-foot models that fold as compactly



This 70-foot CT drill leaves plenty of room for cars to pass along this two-lane stretch of the Trans-Canada near Regina, SK.

as any drill on the market," explains Beaujot.

100% Bulletproof

"The M-fold has proven to be 100% bulletproof on 80- and 90-foot Seed Masters, with an absolute no-fail track record," he adds.

Like all Seed Master drills, CT frames are strong and rugged with heavy steel beams. They also feature an Active Wing Brace - a hydraulic cylinder attached to a steel cable - that gently reduces frame stress as the openers pull through

the field, reinforcing its heavy-duty strength.

Easy Folding

The CT design is user-friendly and less complex than narrow back-folding drills that require extra parts for folding, making them more prone to breakage, says Beaujot. "It folds fast and easy, and its simple frame design keeps the cost comparable to our standard frames."

With nine bridges between his fields, Fitterer says his new CT Seed Master will make life easier, and boost yields. "The seed placement and emergence of this drill is amazing. Every seed germinates. I know it will take me to a new level."



Next Stop, Russia! - An unassembled 40-foot Seed Master, 400 bu. seed tank and fill auger are loaded into a container bound for Russia. The drill - painted blue - is the signature color of Sulky-Burel, our Eastern Europe distributor. More and more Prairie farmers are also choosing this self-assembly option - saving on shipping and assembly costs - thanks to Seed Master's rugged bolt-together design.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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feet high for transport, thanks to the M-fold we perfected on our 80- and 90-foot drills. I can see our CT line becoming a Prairie standard and opening new markets with its narrow transport width.

Master Seeders Forum

Our Master Seeders panel will once again feature top Prairie producers leading a lively and informative Q&A forum at the conference. A full slate of guest speakers is lined up, including Dr. Guy Lafond, a leading expert on row spacing (see page 3).

Record Yields on 14-Inch Row Spacing

We'll explain our incredible success with 14-inch row spacing at the Seed Master Research Farm this fall. We harvested record wheat and canola yields (50-to-65 bu/acre) using a canola seeding rate of only 3 lb/acre and less than five per cent seed bed utilization.

We'll also present our latest advances in seed metering technology that will eliminate seed damage and deliver ultimate precision through individual row metering (see page 2).

Book a pre-conference factory tour and see how productive and efficient our recent expansion and move to Lean Manufacturing has proven to be. We expect to double last year's production, producing up to 250 Seed Master drills in 2009. Sales are brisk, so don't wait too long to place orders for the spring. Save up to 12 per cent by booking early. Visit

www.seedmaster.ca for details. Or give us, or your Seed Master dealer, a call.

New Dealer Group

We're proud to welcome the Mazergroup to our dealer network. Atkinson Implements in Hartney, MB, was the first Mazergroup member to begin carrying Seed Master products two years ago. Overwhelming farmer demand prompted 10 other Mazergroup stores to follow suit this fall - giving hundreds more farmers across Manitoba and Saskatchewan easy access to the Seed Master advantage.

International Attention

Our customer base is expanding in Eastern Europe, too, thanks to French farm implement company Sulky-Burel, our exclusive distributor in that region. While interest from abroad is gratifying, our commitment at home remains unchanged. We take pride in being a family-run, Western Canadian company that helps Prairie farmers maximize the efficiencies of one-pass farming through innovative seeding technology.

Seed Master's bolt-together design makes it easy to ship drills overseas unassembled. We've also noted a sharp increase among Prairie farmers and dealers choosing this self-assembly option for savings on transportation and assembly. Be sure to ask more about this at our upcoming conference.

I'll see you there!

Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng.

President, Seed Master

To purchase Seed Master products, visit our website and contact a dealer near you.

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