

SEEDING | GETTING INNOVATIVE

Invention springs from seeding necessity

Works wonders in wet conditions | System developed in desperation as the seeding window threatened to close

BY KIM LANGEN
FREELANCE WRITER

Manitoba farmer Barry Reimer spent a sleepless night in late May worrying about how he was going to seed his soaked fields.

Inspiration arrived somewhere between the tossing and the turning, and five days later he was seeding and fertilizing canola in one pass, all from a tractor seat.

"A broadcast spray boom is what I would call it, and I didn't know it would work so well," said Reimer, who farms 3,900 acres near Killarney.

"I will do this 400 acre field in about 10 hours. It's twice as fast as a regular seeder. We are just pulling our (seed) tank through the water, and broadcasting. I have come up with a number of farming inventions over the years, but this is my best one."

Time was running out for Reimer May 30 as flooding kept him off his fields.

"Before I went to bed, I was trying to figure out how I would seed. It was just too wet. By 5 a.m. I had it figured out," he said.

"My 19-year-old son, Eric, and an employee, Jared Kroeker, helped me make it in the farm shop. We built it over four days, and today we tried it out. It cost me about \$1,000

WORKING IN THE MUD



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for parts."

He used the manifold off his new drill as well as plastic hoses, one-inch square tubing, two-by-two inch square tubing and 1.5 inch muffler pipes to build a 60-foot boom that would broadcast seed onto wet and dry ground.

It can also deliver a blend of 17 pounds granulated sulphur, 27 lb. of phosphate and 100 lb. of nitrogen per acre with the seed.

"It's saving me application costs, of hiring someone with a floater or an airplane," Reimer said as he drove through mud and water before temporarily shutting off the feed.

"And it's not just that. None of those guys can do three products at once. I won't drive through the cattails, that's the one place I would avoid. Everywhere else is OK. It makes a clean and even application. Look at it coming out."



Barry Reimer invented a broadcast spray boom when wet and flooded land stopped him from seeding his fields. | KIM LANGEN PHOTO

A few hundred metres away, Kroeker pulled heavy harrows to a depth of three-quarters of an inch to settle in the seed and fertilizer. They planned to make two harrow passes and then pray for a little rain.

Reimer was planting into canola stubble because the rain had ended

his plan to seed red spring wheat.

"We ran out of time for the wheat," he said. "June 15 is the last date for canola, if you want crop insurance. I have another 2,100 acres left to do of canola, and with this, I will get it all done."

Reimer said seeding with his new

broadcast spray boom will cost \$1,000, compared to \$4,500 without it.

"The weather made me do it," he said. "Under adverse conditions, you have to change. I want to share the idea with other farmers who maybe want to do the same thing."

CROP PROTECTION | FARMER EDUCATION

New advances in herbicides require further knowledge

BY BRYN LEVY
SASKATOON NEWSROOM

ROSTHERN, Sask. — Farmers must be more educated than ever about what they put in their spray tanks, says a University of Saskatchewan researcher.

Speaking at a direct-seeding demonstration at the Seager-Wheeler historic farm near Rosthern, Ken Sapsford said producers will have more varieties to choose from as they decide what herbicides to apply to their fields.

He said this is a result of growth in private label and generic brands.

Chemicals have been developed in the last five years, but Sapsford said most changes are the result of blends as well as new trade names applied to familiar chemicals.

Sapsford said farmers need to be aware of the active ingredients in their herbicides.

A different trade name on a chemical does not necessarily mean a different active ingredient.

"You're going to have to know active ingredients. Active ingredients are what's happening out there with all the generics coming out," he said.

Knowing a herbicide's mode of action will also be important.

"You're going to have to make sure you know that once you have resistant weeds. We have some Group 2 and Group 1-resistant wild oats already showing up on a field close to Rosthern. You need to know what's out there."

Glyphosate-resistant kochia has already been found in the United States and will almost inevitably make its way north, he added.

Sapsford said more knowledgeable producers will result in better herbicide rotations, which in turn will mean less resistant weeds.

Uh, oh.

THIS WEEK: Danny Nobbs of Bonanza, Alta., was driving his tractor down a lease road to help pull out a truck that had gotten stuck when the tractor slipped off the road. They had to use a track hoe to dig out the road so the tractor was laying level, and then used a Cat to pull it out. It took them a full day to get it unstuck and rebuild the road. Fortunately, the equipment was mostly unharmed. | DENISE NOBBS PHOTO



The *Western Producer* has joined with Flaman to deliver weekly highlights from the company's Great Stuck in the Muck Photo Contest. To see the rest of Flaman's 2010 and 2011 entries in the photo contest, visit stuckinthemuck.com/

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