



XCEL debut at Livestock Event

Hi-Spec Engineering Co Ltd will be using the Livestock Show in July to display the new unique XCEL 1250 rear discharge spreader for the first time in the UK. The company will also be using the show to promote the flexibility of the Vertical Auger Feeder when specified with the VHD Conveyor.

Based in Ireland, Hi-Spec Engineering specialise in the manufacture of machinery for the livestock market, in particular auger and paddle type diet feeders and an extensive range of vacuum tankers and manure spreaders.

A particular feature of Hi-Spec machinery is the wide range of options available, enabling the company to effectively tailor a machine to a customer's specific needs. This is especially the case with diet feeders, where Hi-Spec offer one of the widest range of feed-out options available of any machine on the market, ensuring that there is an option to suit all types of building and feeding system.

Variable Height Discharge conveyor

At this year's Livestock Show Hi-Spec will be promoting the benefits of the Variable Height Discharge (VHD) conveyor on the Vertical Auger range of feeders.

A key feature of the Hi-Spec Vertical Auger range is the ease with which the feeder is able to handle both clamp, but more importantly baled silage or straw, and is able to quickly and efficiently break up and thoroughly mix the ration, so keeping mixing time to a minimum, hence reducing costs.

The VHD conveyor is compact and provides the user with complete flexibility when it comes to feeding out and is ideal in a system where forage is maybe being fed over feed barriers of differing height or even into feed rings.



The VHD conveyor comprises of a modular conveyor belt and elevator, which can be extended out either side of the feeder by up to 26cm, making it ideal for central feed passages where turning round is difficult.

Using the integrated elevator on either end of the conveyor, depending on wheel equipment the discharge height can be varied from as little as 0.9 metres at maximum reach, up to 1.5 metres so enabling the mix to be easily and accurately fed out over railings or even into feed rings.

XCEL 1250 spreader

The new XCEL 1250 is unique in that it uses a rotary chain and flail system to achieve a good break up of material, which is then spread using a pair of spinning discs. This has the benefit that in the event of a solid object, such as a lump of concrete, being encountered, this will pass through without causing any damage to the spreader, unlike a spreader fitted with vertical beater bars where there is the potential for costly damage to the rotors or bearings.

The new XCEL 1250 spreader has a solids capacity of 12 tonnes, with a loading height of just 2.5 metres, and now features a new curved side panel design that provides an increased internal volume for greater capacity. This new design also has the advantage that it reduces the risk of material bridging.

To carry material to the slurry door at the rear of the spreader, the new XCEL 1250 is fitted with marine type double floor chains, that are suitable for use with a wide range of manures, both solid or liquid, sludge or very dry chicken manure. To keep downtime to a minimum, the chain can now be quickly tensioned manually and the hydraulic system has been simplified.

The material for spreading is initially broken-up by a patented and well proven chain flail and spinning disc system. The heavy duty marine grade chains are attached to a horizontal rotor and have a 10 tonne breaking capacity. Each of the chains is fitted with a Hardox steel flail to effectively break-up even the densest of manure. Hardox hard wearing plate is also now used in all the critical wear zones throughout the spreading system for added durability, reliability and minimal downtime.

From the flail rotor, the broken-up material falls onto two PTO driven 960mm diameter spreading discs. Both discs have shear bolt protection and are fitted with two spreading vanes. For lighter, dry material such as chicken litter or pellets, six-vane discs are available as an option. Depending on material, the twin rotors give an even spreading width from 16 to over 20 metres and enable a full 12 tonne load to be spread in about 3-5 minutes.



As part of its standard specification, the new XCEL 1250 is fitted with a wide angle PTO, driving a 200hp rated gearbox, and the spreader's main transmission system is protected by an over-run clutch and shear bolts.

To ensure that compaction and rutting is kept to a minimum, the XCEL 1250 is carried on 580/70R38 tyres with hydraulic braking, and it is also fitted with high visibility LED lighting with protective covers.

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