

DAIRY NEWS

FEED ROBOT

Helping boost yield

PAGE 19



FEBRUARY 7, 2023 **ISSUE 511** // www.dairynews.co.nz



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Fonterra's new Farm Source head Anne Douglas says her team are helping farmers tackle challenges like rising input costs and looming regulations. **PAGE 3**

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Eco Silage Covers can be reused for over 10 years.

Eco silage cover is ‘a game changer’

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HAWERA DAIRY
farmer Erwin Hebler believes his new Firestone Eco Silage Cover is a game changer.

In November last year Hebler, with the help of two staff, installed the

cover over the farm’s 25m by 12m silage pit, housing 100 tonnes of grass silage. He recalls that it was a windy day but putting the cover on “was a breeze”.

“It was blowing gale, but we put it up without much hassle,” he told *Dairy News*.

Hebler, who milks 400 cows, says the biggest

change he noticed is that he uses fewer tyres to cover the silage stack—600 compared to just a handful now.

“At first, I was a bit nervous and ended up using tyres around the perimeter but now I realise I don’t need to use those many tyres. “I’m only using tyres



Firestone has been selling its premium synthetic rubber membrane liners into the silage market in Europe for several years, predominantly in France.

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around the joins overlaps now.”

Hebler says the Firestone Eco Silage Cover helps keep silage losses to a minimum and is resistant to Pukeko and rat damage.

It has a 10-year warranty and there is no need for annual recycling of silage cover.

“It’s very durable and we can walk on it without risk of damage; and any damaged portion can be easily fixed with a patch.

“There is also better air tightness resulting in less damage to silage quality.”

Firestone Building Products, recently bought by Holcim, has been selling its premium synthetic rubber membrane liners into the silage market in Europe for several years, predominantly in France.

Cosio Industries, authorised agents and distributors of Firestone

Building Products for New Zealand, has been distributing the premium lining membranes to the dairy effluent sector in NZ for over ten years.

Cosio Industries lining category manager Vaughan Podbielski says it was a logical step to release the product range into the silage market.

He says there are numerous key similarities and benefits for the NZ market when compared to the overseas market.

“Whereas most traditional silage covers have a thickness of ~120-150 microns with a life expectancy of 12 months and are considered single use and need to be disposed of correctly, another indirect cost, Firestone Eco Silage Covers are ~1140 microns thick and come with a guarantee of 10 years but are expected to last well beyond this.”

He says Firestone Eco Silage Covers are chemically inert and the ability to re-use them for more than ten years makes them an extremely sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative.

“While traditional silage covers can be collected and recycled through several service providers, this is not as environmentally friendly as not having to recycle in the first place due to the cost and carbon requires collection and recycling.”

He notes that some of the plastic products collected in NZ for recycling are actually sent offshore for recycling processing. Re-usable Eco Silage Covers can be reused for 10+ years.

“One of the biggest advantages is the significant time and labour saving of adding and removing tyres since far fewer tyres are required

on Firestone Eco Silage Covers.

“Due to the heavier weight of the membrane, tyres or sandbags are only required on the edges and overlaps. No more throwing of water filled tyres and no more damage to silage covers from throwing tyres on the pile late at night.”

Podbielski says the flexibility and elasticity of the rubber membrane (comparable to a tractor tube) ensures it conforms exceptionally well to the silage pile as the silage settles over time.

“This creates an excellent seal accelerating fermentation which reduces spoilage, improves silage quality, and reduces secondary fermentation.

“Since the thick durable membrane is synthetic rubber, it can be walked on easily without the risk of slipping or damaging the cover.”



Krone EasyCut is getting a makeover.

Merging mower gets upgrade

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THE EASYCUT B 950 Collect is a non-conditioning mower with 450mm merger augers, said to be ideal for tall crops such as ryegrass, or more delicate crops such as lucerne, that may usually cause blockages or damage when put through a conditioner mower.

First introduced to the market five years ago, this lightweight and compact mower has been recently revamped by the German manufacturer to enhance versatility.

Offering 9.45 metres mowing width, the main improvements

include an ISOBUS compatible terminal allowing the operator to control and adjust the shape of the swath being delivered behind the machine, alongside the option to independently lift or lower the mower units.

At the rear of the mower units, the hoods behind the augers open and close hydraulically allowing a choice of three delivery modes, including swathing, independent swathing or no swathing.

The heavy-duty auger units are powered by a right-angle gearbox to revolve at a consistent speed of 750rpm, giving optimal conditions for maximum efficiency and productivity. Mounted closely behind the cutter bars, they can feed large vol-

umes of crop in a consistent flow to the centre of the combination, forming a well-shaped and uniform swath for following harvester or baler.

The EasyCut B 950 Collect is fitted with hardened wear-skids as standard, that also serve to help to reduce ground pressure, while protecting the cutter bar and the sward.

Other useful upgrades include a lever on the nearside guard that allows the mower hood to be lifted for improved maintenance access, but also increases the space between the mower and the tractor, making for easier access to the tractor linkage during hitching or removal.

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NEW FRONT TANK SOLUTION

GERMAN MANUFACTURER

Horsch has introduced the new Leeb FT front tank, that mounts to a tractor's 3-point linkage and offers additional spraying capacity

Available in 1,200 litre and 1,800 litre capacities, the Leeb 1.2 FT and 1.8 FT complement the brand's recently launched Leeb CS rear-mounted sprayer, but will obviously also work with other brands of sprayer.

Designed with compact dimensions and an optimised centre of gravity, when combined with the rear CS unit, the combination offers up to 4,000 litres of spraying capacity in a highly flexible and manoeuvrable format. The FT uses a standard coupling triangle to ensure short set-up times and easy

handling without the need to manually couple hydraulic lines.

The FT Basic can also be used as an additional water tank with a 2" suction line towards the rear of the tank, without agitator and cleaning, and can be combined with all trailed Leeb models.

The higher specification Leeb FT Pro is completely integrated into the software and the water circuit of the Leeb CS and features its own agitator and cleaning.

Featuring ISOBUS control with an intuitive interface, the Leeb FT has lighting integrated in the front tank and an optional camera system for a better overview of the space in front of the machine. - *Mark Daniel*

Horsch has introduced the new Leeb FT front tank, that mounts to a tractor's 3-point linkage and offers additional spraying capacity.



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