

Better BS

by Dale Fredrickson

Getting the manure out of the corrals and back onto the fields is still a huge chore but the Peace River Forage Association of BC has made a grand attempt to ease the burden for its members. I had the opportunity to be the first member to demo the Lowlander 75, manufactured by BUNNING and distributed by GLEN MOR Ltd.

Walter Fritsche Sr. prepared the machine for pulling with a sturdy hitch and safety chain. I hooked onto the spreader with my light duty $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4 X 4, which I soon found out was not enough truck for the hills I encountered from Walter's place to mine. It is heavy!

Once home, I attached it to the JD 4630 (150 hp) 2 wheel drive and found it pulled a lot easier. It takes 2 sets of hydraulics and a 1000 PTO. The model 75 stands for 7.5 tonne and this one has an extension to 10 tonne. The sides are approximately 8 feet high so most loader tractors have enough reach to fill the spreader. Because of the big single tires it has a lot of hitch weight when full. Steering in the rain was made a lot easier with the aid of the wheel brakes.

I can see what all the rave is about with vertical beaters. Using the raw uncomposted manure, it comes out finer than the standard horizontal unit we have been using. The uniformity of distribution is consistent even when I played with PTO speeds. All that seems to change is the spread width. When using composted material it came out extremely fine.

Having rented the Meyers 425(7-8) in the past, I found the Lowlander unit to do a better job with the raw stuff. In the well-composted manure, both types can do the trick. It would depend on your timing, costs, location to machine and availability, whether you should wait for this machine or "get her done" with another. With today's tight profit margins, it sure makes sense to rent. It certainly made short order of our piles. I wonder what Grandpa would say after having to load the dung onto a stone boat pulled by a team using voice commands.

Note: Glenn Hogberg, Rick Kantz and Bill Wilson tried the Lowlander last fall as well and can be contacted for comments. Glenn Hogberg found his one-ton pulled it okay and that it was similar to towing The Aerway to and from fields.

Rental Rates for Lowlander 75 Manure Spreader:

\$225/day for current members

\$275/day for new members

To rent this manure spreader contact:

Walter Fritsche by telephoning (250) 782-5187 or by emailing pwfritsche@neonet.bc.ca