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## Seeding Boom Offers Widespread Possibilities

Dutch manufacturer Zocon has introduced its latest innovation in seeding boom technology, drawing attention from last year's AgriTechnica event in Hannover.

The booms are available in three working widths: 3, 8 and 12 m, corresponding to the ZB300, ZB800 and ZB1200 models. Designed for versatility, these units can be folded either mechanically or hydraulically.

"This makes them ideal for seeding between other crops or for use in combination setups, such as pairing a seeding boom at the front of a tractor with a disc harrow or cultivator at the rear," says Martin van der Goot, Sales Manager for Export at Zocon BV in Joure, Netherlands.

Built on a tough, fully galvanized modular frame, the seeding booms are compatible with both Cat. I and Cat. II 3-pt. linkages for front and rear mounting. Integrated folding support legs provide stability during setup, and lighting along with warning plates are included for safety. Each boom is available in either a mechanically or hydraulically folding version.

"Each model is compatible with all types of Zocon seeders," van der Goot says. "For those opting for a seeder, variably adjustable dispersion plates ensure precise distribution."

Additional options include stairs with a platform, a 7-pin signal cable for monitoring driving speed and lifting position, and the ability to upgrade to a stainless steel version or a hydro blower instead of electric on certain models. Zocon also offers a touch-screen TOPCON controller, available only when ordered directly with the machine.

The three models differ in weight and working width, with the ZB300 weighing 240 kg and spanning 300 cm, the ZB800 at 300 kg and 800 cm, and the ZB1200 weighing 350 kg with a 1,200 cm working width.

Van der Goot recommends contacting the nearest Zocon dealer for pricing and availability information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Zocon BV, De Koevorde 6, 8502 TZ JOURE, The Netherlands (ph +31 (0)513 714 334; info@zocon.eu; www.zocon.eu).

"The six bars on the reel and the closer teeth provide a more uniform and gentle lift to protect the crop," says Kuhns.



## Updated Tedder Fast And Gentle

The AlfaTed from Norden Manufacturing is an update to an older single-reel hay tedder. First developed by master hay producer John Russell of Ohio (Vol. 46, No. 4), it's fast yet gentle on hay.

"The reel-type tedder is an older style, but traditionally had only four bars, which slowed it down," says Glendon Kuhns of Norden Manufacturing. "John added two bars, giving the reel speed the desired 15% faster than ground speed. He also moved the teeth closer, only 4 3/4 in. apart."

Kuhns explains that Russell and Vogel Engineering (Vol. 37, No. 2) spent 10 years or more developing the tedder before Norden took it on. The company introduced the new 10-ft. machine earlier this year.

"People are intrigued, excited and buying the AlfaTed," says Kuhns. "It really fits a niche. The six bars on the reel and the closer teeth provide a more uniform and gentle lift to protect the crop."

Hydraulically powered, the AlfaTed requires only a 4 to 7 gpm flow rate. At 1,275 lbs., it's light on the ground. The quiet bearing cams were designed by Vogel. Kuhns notes that the cam design provides a smooth lift of the reel.

The AlfaTed features tool-free adjustments. "You can adjust the working height in 1/4-in. increments," says Kuhns. "It also has 14 in. of vertical lift for turning on end rows."

Kuhns expects the company to introduce more models to the AlfaTed line.

"We have some prototypes out with hay producers to evaluate new configurations," he says.

The 10-ft. working-width AlfaTed tedder is priced at \$11,200.

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## Two-Headed Wrecking Bar Better Than One

C.J. Shortridge turned a standard wrecking bar into one with two heads to straighten joists while flooring a porch. Adding a large socket at the connection point lets him use a ratchet handle as the pry bar on the clevis-type heads.

"I needed jaws that would grab onto the 2-in. joists that were twisted and take the twist out," he says. "I've used a pipe wrench for the job before, but with the socket and ratchet handle, I have more flexibility in the angle of the handle."

Shortridge used the two ends of a bar to make the jaws, one with a 90-degree curve and the other with a slight curve. He welded them together with both curves in parallel, placing the socket on the back side of the clevis.

"The curves give me more leverage," says Shortridge. "The length of the jaws is just shy of 3 1/2 in., so it won't stick past a 2 by 4, and the opening is sized to slide over the edge of 2-in. width lumber."

Shortridge points out that while a pipe wrench travels only 80 degrees, the ratchet can be adjusted to any angle.

Shortridge credits his dad for his welding skills and his fix-it attitude. He notes that his dad was always making and fixing things, and



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he does the same.

"I made the two-headed bar because I needed it," says Shortridge. "The way I grew up, if you needed something, you made it or you did without."

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"CRISPR is a Nobel Prize-winning technology that enables us to make plants like blackberries easier to grow and eat using their natural potential, only faster," says Bartlett.

## New Technology Delivers More Seedless Fruit

Pairwise, a genetics-based innovation pioneer based in Durham, N.C., has developed the world's first seedless blackberry.

"Blackberries are one of the most nutritious fruits, but data tells us that many berry buyers dislike the seeds," says Ryan Bartlett, Chief Technology Officer of Pairwise. "Look at what happened with seedless grapes, watermelons and mandarins. The seedless variety became the preferred one. We believe the same opportunity exists for blackberries."

This fruit was developed using the company's Fulcrum Platform, a comprehensive set of innovative tools for CRISPR application in plants.

"CRISPR is a Nobel Prize-winning technology that enables us to make plants easier to grow and eat using their natural potential, only faster," says Bartlett. "With this technology, we can improve traits including yield, plant architecture, juvenility, and even remove thorns for easier harvesting."

Blackberries are notable in the fruit world for their complex genome.

"This makes for a great opportunity with CRISPR. Traditional breeding could take decades or longer, but CRISPR shortens the timeline to years."

This innovation marks the first time seedlessness has been achieved in any caneberry. Scientists have applied their extensive knowledge of plant genetics, a wide range of CRISPR tools, and multiplex editing techniques to

eliminate the hard pits in berry fruit. Instead, you'll find the soft, small seeds similar to those in "seedless" grapes and watermelon.

"Our seedless variety holds up well during shipment, so we think this will be a great eating experience for consumers," says Bartlett.

Similarly, Pairwise has successfully removed thorns and created a more compact plant. This allows for denser plantings per acre, resulting in easier harvesting and improved productivity and profitability for farmers.

Field tests for these edited blackberries began in 2024, with an expected 1 to 2-year period for the field trial to finish and for commercial sales to begin. In fall 2025, a Pairwise partner in Colombia started limited retail sales of the berries.

"We expect volumes to continue to increase," Bartlett says. "Sales are expected to begin in the U.S. soon."

There's more to come from Pairwise. These berries are just one of 15 crop types the company has edited.

"We're thrilled about an upcoming opportunity to collaborate with Sun World and work on a pitless cherry," says Bartlett. "Consumers worldwide love fresh cherries, and they'll love them even more without a hard pit."

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