

GILTRAP ENGINEERING

When Kiwi dairy farmer Owen Hanna's old fert spreader ended up at the bottom of a gully, upside down and very damaged, it presented him an opportunity to have a good look at what was available so he could get the best technology to take him forward.

After checking the Giltrap Engineering website, he called the company to discuss its range of fertiliser spreaders. It turns out they ticked all his boxes.

His 'must haves' included an 850 mm-wide belt to spread his chicken manure, a low centre of gravity, and stainless steel bin. It wasn't until he looked at Giltrap spreaders' electronic control system that he really got hooked, however.

The touchscreen controller gives him the ability to track his application rates and applied areas through the GPS system, change rates on the go, or slow down one spinner when opening a paddock or working alongside a waterway.

Owen was even happier after he had set up the computer and found it really was simple to use. He was also pleased with how accurately the spreader applied different materials.

All Giltrap machines are fitted standard with hydraulic belt drive, and can be controlled electronically from the tractor cab to deliver consistent and accurate spread settings.

There are seven models in the Giltrap range of granular fertiliser spreaders. Their volumes extend from the 2.5 m³ model up to the 12.4 m³ model (which translates to a capacity of 3 to 15 tonnes of superphosphate).

All models feature a bin made of 3.0 mm grade 304 stainless steel and an independent chassis made of grade 350 RHS steel. The chassis provides a rigid mounting and towing base for the fertiliser bin.

Other key features are low centre of gravity for safety on hills, a hydraulically adjusted door with multiple spreading positions for different application rates and products, and an 850 mm wide x 8 mm thick vulcanised endless rubber belt with 5.0 mm high chevron cleats to move fertiliser, compost and poultry manure efficiently through the door.

The rear spinners counter-rotate at speeds of up to 1000 RPM and give spread widths out to 24m. The speed of each spinner is controlled and monitored electronically independent of the other spinner. A boundary spreading control function is included.

A proportional hydraulic control valve delivers oil to the belt drive and the controller adjusts it automatically to maintain a constant application rate.

Last year, Giltrap Engineering moved to fit all of its spreaders with Farmscan Ag 7300 controllers. The Farmscan Ag 7300 is a universal controller for agricultural machinery that has been tailored with features specifically for Giltrap spreaders.



It gives the operator the choice of user-friendly manual operation or fully automatic rate map control with GPS and the options of mapping and variable rate application.

The Farmscan Ag 7300 has a large 4.8-inch colour graphic touch display with simple functions and a smart warning system that alerts the operator when something goes wrong, such as a blockage.

Giltrap spreaders can also be specified with electronic scales with automatic rate calibration. When used with the Farmscan Ag 7300 controller, the load cells help the operator calibrate and maintain the correct product output, even with fertiliser that has fluctuating densities.

Optional extras include reversible spinner rotation for spreading mulch and compost, a PVC rollover cover, row crop axle spacing and wheels, hydraulic brakes, LED tail lights, and a gooseneck or sprung drawbar.

For specialist applications, Giltrap spreaders can be specified with higher spinner clearance and spinner crash guards, side banding attachments and rear-mounted side delivery conveyors. Avariety of single or double sided banding attachments for fertiliser or organic products makes band spreading easy.

Giltrap Engineering is a New Zealand company with generations of experience. It markets its products around the world and its engineers consult regularly with farmers and contractors to design high quality products that meet their needs.

Before any Giltrap machine makes it to the market, it is put through its paces in the unique test facility of real New Zealand farms to ensure it lives up to the Giltrap reputation for strength, innovation and durability.

To contact Giltrap Ag Equipment for more information freephone 1800 127 030 or visit the website giltrapag.com.au. **AC**