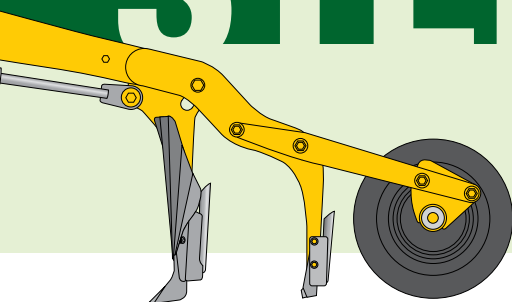


# STEERING YOU STRAIGHT



Your Precision Seeding Newsletter

## NEW RESEARCH FARM PUSHING BOUNDARIES

### 14-inch Row Spacing; Stripper Header Stubble

The crops have all emerged and a new study that will push the boundaries and maximize the efficiencies of direct seeding is now underway at the Seed Master Research Farm.

The 1,400 acre field-scale study will explore the combined benefits of 14-inch row spacing, stripper header harvesting, and seeding back into that extremely tall stubble – up to three feet tall.

### Lower Costs; Higher Yields

“We anticipate a much lower cost of production and higher yields due to important factors such as fewer openers, lower draft and fuel requirements, less soil disturbance, better water conservation, and increased speed of harvest,” says Norbert Beaujot, P. Eng., President of Straw Track Manufacturing. “We believe this study will

map out the future direction of dry land farming.”

To accurately measure all the benefits, the Seed Master Research Farm is setting up side-by-side test plots in each field to compare the performance of crops seeded at 14 inches into stripper header stubble with the same crops seeded on 10-inch spacing into 10-inch stubble. The test plots will be seeded with wheat, canola, barley and peas on a four-year rotation, using two Seed Master air drills.

Of course, the stripper header stubble will be seeded with the Smart Hitch guidance system. It is the only technology that keeps the knife openers between the stubble rows, preventing them from becoming tangled and plugged. The test plots on 10-inch spacing will be seeded without the

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*



Designed for 14-inch row spacing, the new 77-Foot Seed Master will cut seeding costs by 30% due to fewer openers and lower fuel and HP costs.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

# “WE’VE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND”

It’s been another year of aggressive growth and innovation with the Seed Master. We’ve created new products, launched our new research farm, and will expand our production plant as we continue helping producers maximize yields and lower production costs.



It’s been interesting to see most of the large companies follow our lead and introduce similar terrain-following openers this year. The Seed Master’s precision seed and fertilizer placement is being widely recognized as “the” way to seed. But while other companies familiarize themselves with the opener, we’ve been at it for 15 years and continue to advance the technology with ground-breaking products like the Packing Force Sensor.

### New Packing Force Sensor

As you’ll read on page 3, farmers no longer have to guess how much packing force to apply as soil hardness varies from high spots to low spots. The sensor tells them their packing pressure as it changes, so they can make accurate adjustments and maintain uniform packing across the field for fast, even emergence.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Smart Hitch, to demonstrate the proven benefits of this revolutionary technology and the impact of seeding between rows of standing stubble.

The 14-inch rows will be harvested with a stripper header with chaff spreading, leaving the highest stubble possible for each crop. The only exception is canola, which will be swathed as high as possible. The 10-inch rows will be harvested with a conventional rotary combine with a built-in chopper and spreader.

## Set Up Year

"This is our set up year," explains Beaujot. All stubble was cut to 12-inches and all crops were seeded on 14-inch spacing. "Next spring, once everything is uniform, we will add the 10-inch spacing plots – each measuring at least 10 acres in size."

All differences between the two row-spacing treatments will then be analyzed – seed bed quality, emergence, plant count, uniformity, maturity, snow catch, evaporation, etc. "The ultimate analysis is profit and yield," says Beaujot.

## \$10/acre Savings

"We have already calculated a \$10/acre savings in input costs (equipment and fuel) to go from 10-inch to 14-inch row spacing," he adds. That savings will be invested in more fertilizer for the 14-inch rows to equalize the input costs between the two row spacings.

"We are keeping the input costs the same on both row spacings because most farmers have a certain amount of money to spend each growing season. I think many would choose to invest that \$10/acre savings in fertilizer to earn the highest profit possible," explains Beaujot.

## Save 30% on Fuel, HP and Drill Costs

A key element of the research is the new 77-foot Seed Master, designed specifically for 14-inch row spacing. It's a much simpler drill with only two ranks of openers rather than three, shaving four feet off the drill's front-to-back length for superior terrain-following and cornering. With fewer openers, it cuts drill costs by 14%, and saves 16% on fuel and HP.

The 77-foot width was not chosen randomly, says Beaujot. "With 77 feet on a quarter section, you make exactly 17 rounds and you're back to the same side of the field with no overlaps or misses."

He invites producers to stop by the Research Farm for a look. "We're all about advancing the science of direct seeding and making the best drill in the world. The only way to do that is by being ahead in the research. The results of this study will drive the development of our next generation of seeders."



The Seed Master Research Farm will explore the benefits of seeding into stripper header stubble (shown here) on 14-inch row spacing.



Straw Track President Norbert Beaujot describes the accuracy and seed-handling gentleness of Seed Master seed tanks and individual row metering during an Orientation Day for new Seed Master owners in May. About 100 farmers attended the event at Straw Track's facility east of Regina.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new Seed Master Research Farm is the testing ground for all new innovations. We've embarked on a study at the farm this year exploring the efficiencies of 14-inch row spacing, stripper header harvesting, and seeding back into that extreme stubble with the Smart Hitch. We expect the cost savings and production payback will be enormous.

## We're Expanding Again

We will bring production of our seed tank in house this fall with the addition of 4,800 sq. feet to our manufacturing plant. As we improve the tank's design and functionality, individual row metering will continue to be the focus. Metering out seed into individual cups for each opener delivers an accuracy and seed-handling gentleness that other seed tanks will never achieve with bulk metering. Our tank allows Seed Master owners to seed canola at rates as low as 3 lbs/acre and still realize maximum yields.

## 1.4 Million Acres Seeded

With our plant expansion, we will increase production of Seed Master air drills to meet the growing demand. We sold out once again this year, producing almost 100 new drills – making us one of the largest zero-till manufacturers in Canada. Many of those new drills are 80-foot models, which have all performed with 100% success. In total, Seed Master drills have seeded 1.4 million acres across the prairies this year, both in Canada and the U.S.

We invite you to drop by our booth at upcoming farm trade shows to see the new Packing Force Sensor first hand. And we encourage you to visit the Seed Master Research Farm as we map out the future of direct seeding.

Best Wishes,

**Norbert Beaujot, P.Eng.**

*President  
Straw Track Manufacturing Inc.*

# New Sensor Technology Takes Guess Work Out of Packing

Straw Track Manufacturing is unveiling new technology that puts an end to the guessing game farmers are forced to play while seeding their crops.

Until now, producers have had no way of knowing how widely their packing force fluctuates as soil hardness varies while seeding over high spots and low spots. They have had to rely on intuition and experience to guess how much pressure is needed for uniform packing - which can sometimes lead to over and under packing, reduced emergence and lower yields.

## Uniform Packing; Even Emergence

Now Straw Track Manufacturing has designed a Packing Force Sensor - an industry first - specifically for its Seed Master air drills. The sensor features a load cell - the same type used on cattle and truck weigh scales. It mounts above the packer wheel on one of the openers, measures any changes in packing force, and instantly displays those readings on a digital monitor in the tractor cab.

The Seed Master's industry-leading design has always allowed producers to quickly adjust the hydraulic force from their tractor seat. But now, they will have precise data to make informed decisions, ensuring unbeatable uniform packing. "Very few drills offer the luxury of adjusting packing pressure from the tractor, and none give the farmer data about the pres-



The new Packing Force Sensor Mounts just above the packer wheel. It measures changes in packing pressure, allowing farmers to make accurate adjustments for uniform packing.

sure he's exerting," says Norbert Beaujot, P.Eng., President of Straw Track Manufacturing and creator of the new sensor.

## Prevent Over and Under Packing

John Nowatzki, extension agriculture machines systems specialist at North Dakota State University in Fargo, thinks

the Packing Force Sensor "will be a big help" to producers who understand the importance of consistent packing. Over packing can create a hard crust that the seedling has trouble getting through, especially in wet conditions and clay soil. Under packing in lighter textured soils can cause the seed to dry out quickly. Both reduce emergence, he explains.

"If you don't have even emergence, you've lost yield potential. Packing is critical to emergence," says Nowatzki.

While his emergence and yields have been excellent with the Seed Master's terrain-following openers, Wes Ennis expects the new sensor will put even more bushels in his bins. "My field conditions are quite variable so I'm constantly adjusting my packing pressure." He looks forward to sitting back and letting the sensor alert him to hard soil that pushes against the knives and packer wheel, reducing packing pressure - or softer soil where the knives and packer wheel sink too easily, which can lead to over packing.

## The Next Step: Automated Sensor

The next step is to automate the sensor, so it self-adjusts the hydraulic packing without the farmer's help, says Beaujot. "It will automatically maintain a desired force across the field. We'll have that available within two years." The current version of the sensor will be unveiled at the Farm Progress Show in Regina in June with production beginning this fall. Orders can be placed now with a purchase price of less than \$2,000.



Wes Ennis expects the new Packing Force Sensor will put even more bushels in his bins.

# Seed Master Discounts Offered Online

Hamilton Tait knows a good deal when he sees one. That's why the Langbank producer took advantage of Straw Track's 4.5% price discount for producers who assemble their own Seed Masters - slashing \$4,000 from the purchase price.

With its unique bolt-together design, most Seed Masters can be easily assembled on farm. The savings in shipping and assembly costs are then passed on to customers.

Tait took delivery of his unassembled seeder in January and had it up and running long before spring seeding. "It only took about 80 hours to put together," says Tait, which is the equivalent of being paid about \$50/hr for the job.



Hamilton Tait's daughter, Marina, helps attach the hoses on his new Seed Master. Tait saved \$4,000 on the purchase price by assembling his own Seed Master on farm.

"It wasn't hard. I didn't even need help," he adds, "although my children helped attach the hoses. I used an air gun and a forklift but a front-end loader would work, too. The openers were already assembled. I just had to put them underneath, bolt the frame together and put the ranks on."

## Biggest Discounts for Early Ordering and Delivery

The assembly discount is one of many offered by Straw Track through its website at [www.seedmaster.ca](http://www.seedmaster.ca). Producers can cut their Seed Master purchase price by more than 15% using numerous rebates listed online.

The two biggest discounts are for placing "hold orders" on machines early and choosing an early delivery date. Putting a drill on hold by June triggers a 6% discount that drops to 5% in July, declines 0.5% each month after, and ends in March at 1%.

Early delivery in September earns an additional 6% discount that declines 1% each month until March, when it reaches zero.

"When producers make their decisions early and accept earlier delivery, it helps us spread out production. We're happy to pass those savings on to customers," notes Norbert Beaujot, P.Eng., President of Straw Track Manufacturing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Seed Master Owner Declared Master Grower

Just months after Paul Cherkas harvested his first Seed Master crops last fall, the Canadian Wheat Board proclaimed him a 2007 Master Grower for his six-row malting barley. And that's no coincidence, says Cherkas, who has farmed near Kamsack for 35 years, growing wheat, barley, canola and sometimes oats on more than 16,000 acres of land.



Master Grower Paul Cherkas of Kamsack, SK.

## All Seeds Germinate Evenly

"I use good agronomy and the weather plays a part, but the Seed Master is important. It puts all the seeds at the right depth so they germinate evenly. I seeded all my crops with it."

Cherkas purchased two Seed Masters in 2006 after seeing the technology on neighbours' farms. "Ordinary drills cut three inches deep in some areas, and leave seeds on the ground in other places. The depth control on the Seed Master packer wheel gives you precision seed placement."

Cherkas seeded his barley and wheat at a depth of .75 inches and canola at half an inch. "In nine days, my canola was getting the third leaf. That uniform seed placement gives you maybe an extra week in crop maturity to help beat the weather and get it in the bin faster."

## Side Row Banding

Cherkas also has praise for the Seed Master side row banding system. It safely places fertilizer in a separate furrow right beside the seeds - close

enough to give them the nourishment they need but far enough not to hurt anything, he explains.

"My canola was like willow sticks. Another farmer I know used mid-row banders. His stalks were half the size of mine. It gave me a much healthier plant."

## "A Better Crop" with Smart Hitch™

Cherkas switched from conventional tillage to direct seeding with his Seed Masters, doing everything in one pass instead of three. This year, he used the Smart Hitch™ guidance system to seed between last year's stubble rows - a move he's confident will pay off. "The stubble protects the seedlings and keeps moisture in the ground. I'll get a better crop."

Cherkas aims to make one-pass farming an exact science on his fields. His Seed Masters and Smart Hitch are key tools in that quest. "Everything has to be done right, or it's not going to turn out."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

## Other Seed Master discounts available at [www.seedmaster.ca](http://www.seedmaster.ca) include:

- 1% Experience Discount for producers who previously purchased a Seed Master or a drill featuring similar technology
- \$1,000 discount for choosing 12-inch or 14-inch row spacing
- \$1,000 discount for ordering online
- \$500 discount with a Seed Master trade show coupon

Straw Track also encourages producers contemplating a new Seed Master to apply for National Farm Stewardship Program (NFSP) grants - up to \$15,000. Tait received the full grant - available to farmers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. NFSP applications must be approved **before** producers purchase equipment. However, farmers can place a \$1,000 deposit on a Seed Master frame and order the openers later, to take advantage of early booking discounts while still being eligible for an NFSP grant.

# TO PURCHASE SEED MASTER PRODUCTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND CONTACT A DEALER NEAR YOU.

### ATKINSON IMPLEMENTS

204.858.2000 HARTNEY, MB

### DUSYK ENTERPRISES LTD.

306.424.2212 MONTMARTRE, SK  
[www.dusykent.com](http://www.dusykent.com)

### FARMERS UNION OIL

701.756.6469 MOHALL, N.D.  
[www.mohallcenex.com](http://www.mohallcenex.com)

### FARM WORLD EQUIPMENT LTD.

306.864.3667 KINISTINO, SK  
306.682.9920 HUMBOLDT, SK  
306.922.2525 PRINCE ALBERT, SK  
[www.farmworld.ca](http://www.farmworld.ca)

### HENRY KELLY TRACTOR

306.946.3301 WATROUS, SK  
[www.henrykelly.com](http://www.henrykelly.com)

### KE-ED EQUIPMENT LTD.

306.842.6626 WEYBURN, SK  
[www.ke-ed.com](http://www.ke-ed.com)

### KOSIOR TRACTOR LTD.

306.483.5115 OXBOW, SK  
[www.kosiortractor.com](http://www.kosiortractor.com)

### MILLER FARM EQUIPMENT

306.435.3866 MOOSOMIN, SK  
204.638.5558 DAUPHIN, MB  
204.759.2424 SHOAL LAKE, MB  
204.725.2273 BRANDON, MB  
[www.millerfarmequipment.com](http://www.millerfarmequipment.com)

### MOODY'S EQUIPMENT LTD.

306.934.4686 SASKATOON, SK  
306-228-2686 UNITY, SK  
306-237-4272 PERDUE, SK  
306-825-6141 LLOYDMINSTER, SK

### PROSPER TRACTOR LTD.

306.634.6422 ESTEVAN, SK  
[www.prosperttractor.com](http://www.prosperttractor.com)

### RAYMORE NEW HOLLAND

306.746.2911 RAYMORE, SK  
[www.raymorenewholland.com](http://www.raymorenewholland.com)

### R.D. AG CENTRAL

306.542.3335 KAMSACK, SK

### REDVERS AGRICULTURAL & SUPPLY LTD.

306.452.3444 REDVERS, SK

### R-J SALES & SERVICE LTD.

306.338.2541 WADENA, SK

### SOUTH COUNTRY EQUIPMENT LTD.

306.354.2411 MOSSBANK, SK  
306.642.3366 ASSINIBOIA, SK  
306.692.2371 MOOSE JAW, SK  
306.721.5050 REGINA, SK  
[www.southcountry.ca](http://www.southcountry.ca)

### YORKTON NEW HOLLAND

306.783.8511 YORKTON, SK  
[www.yorktonnewholland.com](http://www.yorktonnewholland.com)

### WESTERN SALES

306.882.4291 ROSETOWN, SK  
306.378.2575 ELROSE, SK  
306.867.8601 OUTLOOK, SK  
[www.westernsales.ca](http://www.westernsales.ca)

For more information and a free video, please contact us at:

#1 South Plains Rd. West  
Emerald Park, SK  
Canada S4L 1C6

TOLL FREE  
1-888-721-3001

LOCAL  
(306) 721-3001

FAX  
(306) 721-3002

[www.seedmaster.ca](http://www.seedmaster.ca)

