

SoftSize Flat Screen Sizing

Copyrighted sizing system features specific flat screen machines

The new Dahlman Seed Co. LLP corn conditioning facility near Dassel, MN (see p. 12) has no cylindrical screens or sizers. Instead, seed corn sizing is accomplished entirely with flat screens.

The sizing process relies on the copyrighted SoftSize sizing system that clearly is nothing like the traditional conditioning towers at most facilities. SoftSize was developed by seed production and handling specialist Jon Popp, Popp Engineering, Ames, IA.

Popp's SoftSize sizing system (patent applied for) features specific flat screen machines, each with its own characteristics. These machines are combined with a design assembly to create the SoftSize system. When completely installed, Popp says the system offers three strikingly different benefits than conventional systems.

Flat Screen Benefits

First, SoftSize improves grading accuracy. Conventional grading systems feature centrifugal force and tumbling action. "The seed is rubbing harshly against other seed or tumbling through the air a majority of the time," notes Popp. "It's not against the sizing perforations most of the time."

Compared to cylinders, SoftSize offers a 51% longer flat screen and more size increments, ranging down to 0.05 millimeter increments. "The flatness minimizes rough action and the length maximizes exposure to sizing perforations," he says.

Second, the variety of different flow patterns in the modular flat screen machines give the operators more flexibility. Operators can change how the screens in the machines are used based on the seed size of each lot.

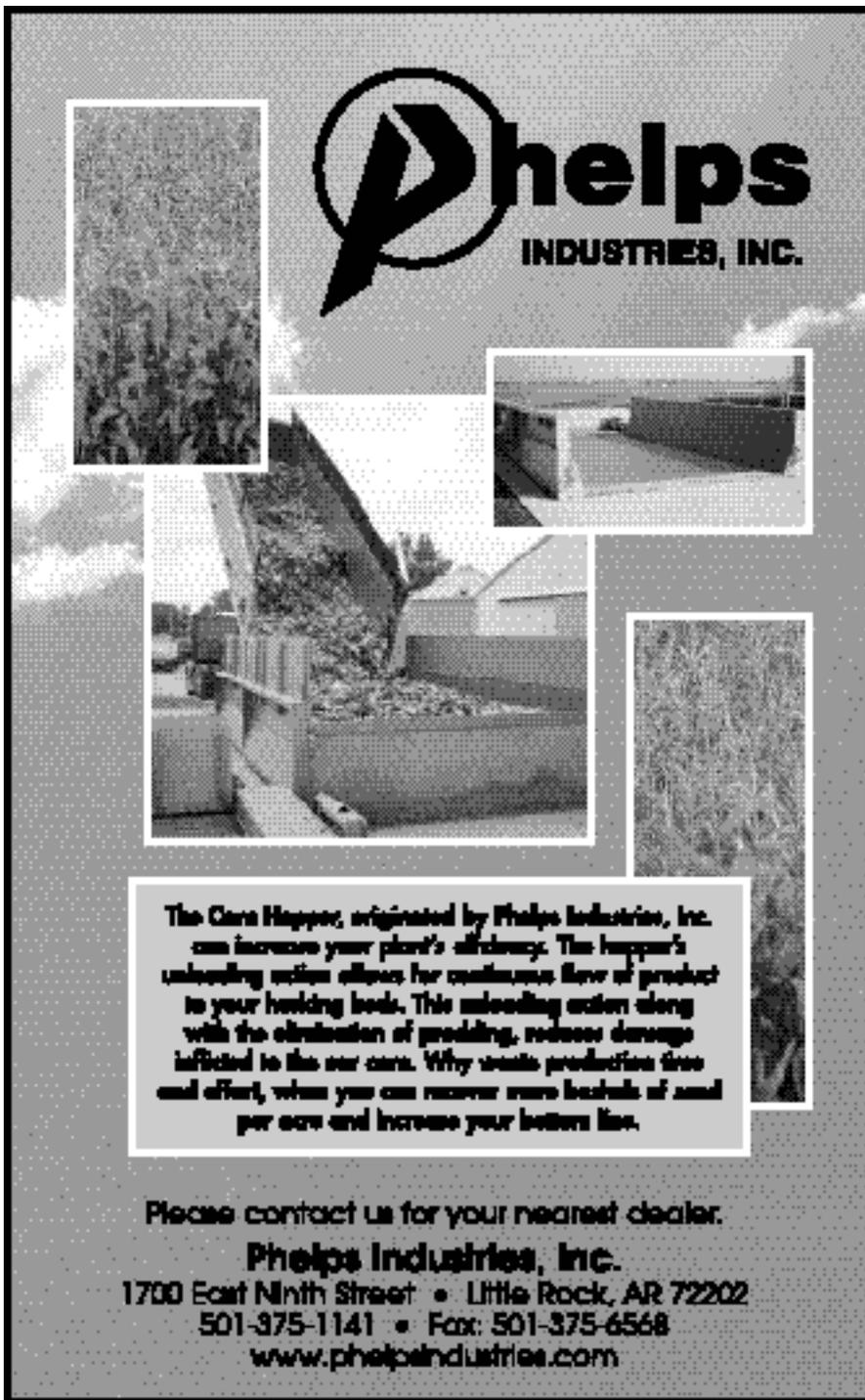
Third, there is less seed damage because the seed moves down the screen instead of being tumbled, Popp says. The flow flexibility of modular flat screen machines allows the operator to finish sizing when the desired seed sizes are

made, adds Popp.

The number of sizes varies from one lot to the next, and the SoftSize allows the operator to adjust.

"Each company's installation is tai-

lored to meet that company's requirements," Popp says. "Compared to the traditional cylindrical seed corn grading systems, this new system is extremely sophisticated."



Phelps
INDUSTRIES, INC.

The Core Hopper, originated by Phelps Industries, Inc. can increase your plant's efficiency. The hopper's unloading action allows for continuous flow of product to your holding bins. This unloading action along with the elimination of prodding, reduces damage inflicted to the ear corn. Villy results production time and effort, when you can recover more bushels of seed per acre and increase your bottom line.

Please contact us for your nearest dealer.
Phelps Industries, Inc.
1700 East Ninth Street • Little Rock, AR 72202
501-375-1141 • Fax: 501-375-6568
www.phelpsindustries.com

For more information:

Popp Engineering, Inc., Ames, IA (515-232-6118)
jpopp@poppengineeringinc.com