

MODERN MACHINERY IS NEEDED

Hannah and Oliver Arnold appreciate as busy contractors well maintained modern machinery is needed in order to deliver a reliable service to customers throughout East Anglia. Their machinery list is now fairly extensive and their very latest addition is a latest state of the art mill from Germany. It allows them to travel to local farms to utilise home-grown produce to create individual blended feeds for their stock – beef, dairy, lambs, pigs and poultry – throughout East Anglia.

The unit can travel to a farm and take in home-grown cereals by suction, and then process them through a roll or hammer mill. Blended molasses and/or soya oil is sprayed into the mix, resulting in a highly palatable, dust-free ration.

Protein, concentrates, straights and minerals are supplied and added as required, and the finished feed can be blown into bulk bins, augered onto floors or into trailers or 1t tote bags.

These type of mills are not new, but technology has advanced over the years! The new machine, when straight rolling, can achieve a throughput of up to 25t/hr. It is quiet, dust-free and can produce consistent 7t mixes in one go.

The machine holds two mill screens at a time, and for poultry rations these can be of different sizes to produce the varied size of grains required. The rollers can also be set at a certain distance and will stay at that setting for the whole visit! Furthermore, both the screen and roller settings can be noted so that exactly the same consistency can be achieved on the next visit to your farm.

No straw will be put through the new machine. Straw put through any hammer mill is too short and becomes soft over time in the mix, so it doesn't produce the scratch factor that is behind most requests for its inclusion. There are significantly cheaper and more effective methods of providing fresh straw, such as in racks or bedding.

The mixing tank on the new mill has three weigh cells providing an accurate weight of whole mix and consistency of milling. For example, the exact amount of molasses and soya oil to be added can be measured by both the flow meter and the weigh cells (this can be a rather a hit-and-miss affair in older-style machines). Furthermore, this means that charging on tonnage, rather than for a mix, is now realistic. The milling charge seems to always be the question farmers ask, but this is really a small percentage compared to the value of the finished feed!

The Arnolds will offer a number of complementary products to mix with the cereal and as they are able to supply protein in bulk on the machines, they can pass on the savings, which can be up to £40/t!

With help from the nutritionists at Vitfoss, the Arnolds will be able to process rations to your exact requirements, and they can provide a full nutritional service based on your production targets and available raw materials.

As well as bagged minerals and concentrates, Vitfoss also produces Stalosan F, mineralised salt blocks, molassed mineral buckets and milk replacers to name a few (some of the products are shown below).

The Vitfoss Micro-feeder (also shown below) can also be supplied. A unique concept of mineral supplementation to grazing livestock that is convenient and more cost-effective than using molassed mineral buckets, it ensures that livestock intake the required level of vitamins and minerals to optimise their health and performance.



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