

# NEW

## feed mixer auger saves time and money



**PETER Mengel, a third generation dairy farmer from Pittsworth, Queensland, makes no bones about it – as far as he is concerned the new auger design on his Strautmann feed mixer is saving him time and money.**

**P**eter has 230 cows, mainly dairy Holsteins with a small beef herd, on his 2000 acre dryland farm.

Working with his parents, brother and wife, they previously grew their own feed, but drought conditions have made that impossible.

"It's so dry out here, we can't even grow grass, let alone feed crops, so we started using a feed mixer," Peter said.

"I previously used a blue vertical feed mixer, which didn't have the suspension to cope with our terrain.

"When the undercarriage needed fixing, it was going to cost me thousands of dollars, so I bought a Strautmann Verto-Mix 2401 instead.

"It comes standard with tandem sprung axle suspension, which ensures a comfortable ride in the paddock on my 191hp tractor.

"The Verto-Mix has the new Vario2 mixing auger, which has a stepped flight design.

"After I've put the last bale in the mixer, the feed ration is totally mixed in five minutes.

"The other machine used to take 20 – and as I'm mixing four times a day (twice for the dairy cows, one for the

heifers and one for the dry cows and springers) that's a lot of time saved, "And it's reduced my fuel costs by \$1200 a month."

Peter said his Verto-Mix also delivered a high quality total mixed ration (TMR), meaning his cows don't leave anything behind.

He said even better, they have had an increase in milk solids, with more fat and protein, so the nutritional benefits were clearly there.

"My feed mix is 500 kg corn (milled), 300 kg soyabean meal, 3000 litres of water, one medium hay square and six bales of grain sorghum, which has been harvested as a total crop and ensiled when the seed head was cheesy," he explained.

Inlon's Strautmann product manager Shane Ryan said the stepped flight design on the auger delivered more efficient mixing.

He said it gave Peter fast low-horsepower mixing because the steps lift and loosen the fodder as it mixes, creating a uniform feed ration without over processing.

"Tests comparing traditional pure smooth spiral augers with the stepped

flight auger have showed considerably reduced power consumption with the new design," Shane noted.

"The patented knife adjustment system also means it can be adapted to specific conditions, using straw knives, bale cutting or root crop knives."

Strautmann has a range of discharge door and conveyor options.

Peter said he liked the position of the unloading door in the corner of the mixer.

"The auger can push the mix out of the door without leaving any feed behind, which is much better than my previous mixer," Peter added.

"And I'm pleased to be rid of the suspension problems."

Peter said he already had large 435mm tyres on the mixer, which minimised any rolling from side to side on uneven ground, keeping an optimal centre of gravity. ■

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