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Photos: <http://www.stoltzfusspreaders.com/newsroom/70-anniversary.php>

Stoltz Manufacturing Marking its 70th Anniversary During 2015

Founder Christian U. Stoltzfus invented a unique lime spreader that made farmers more productive

MORGANTOWN, PA (August 15, 2015) – Stoltz Manufacturing (<http://www.stoltzmf.com/>), a leading manufacturer of construction and agricultural spreaders, marks its 70th anniversary during 2015, enjoying ongoing success with the breakthrough agricultural lime spreader invented by founder Christian Umble (“C.U.”) Stoltzfus in 1945 following the end of World War 2.

Today, Stoltz Manufacturing makes more than two dozen different agricultural and construction site spreaders—each based on the original concept--that are sold mostly in the United States, but also in other countries. Nearly 5,000 are in operation.

Many owners cite the durability and ruggedness of Stoltzfus spreaders, which operate for decades in the toughest of operating conditions, according to Bernard Hershberger, the company’s president representing the third generation of the family.

Hershberger said in 1945, Stoltzfus was a Morgantown area 33-year-old farmer and a limestone quarry operator who sought a way to minimize the dust clouds generated when he spread lime on his fields. He built a truck-mounted drop spreader that distributed powered lime, bone meal and rock phosphate close to the ground through evenly spaced holes in metal booms, each extending 15 feet horizontally from the machine’s center.

His first five-ton, tractor-drawn spreader initially sold to farmers in Pennsylvania Dutch country, allowed a faster, more accurate and efficient pattern over a wide area. Though his design has been updated and refined over 70 years, it remains the benchmark process for applying dry flowing materials, including lime which is essential to growing crops because it neutralizes the soil’s acidity.

Stoltzfus’ ingenuity continued. In 1976 he invented a wet lime spreader, enabling farmers to backhaul truckloads of inexpensive lime, stockpile it in their fields and apply it when conditions were favorable. The spreader was capable of applying four tons of wet lime per acre. Spreader sales doubled for the company.

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Stoltzfus Difference

Ten years later, Stoltzfus perfected his bulk material spreader that could accommodate not only lime, but also bulkier materials such as chicken litter, biosolids and compost—the first spreader to combine these fertilizers in a single machine.

In 1991, Stoltzfus introduced the Redhawk Ground Driven Spreader, the first with a dual-contact press wheel that combined the load breakout strength of his wet lime spreader with the accuracy of a ground-driven machine.

In 1995, the company introduced its second distinct product line of pneumatically loaded soil stabilization spreaders to the construction industry. Sold under the Stoltz Site Spreader[®] and brand name, they also revolutionized an industry as construction companies were finally able to apply large quantities of lime, cement, fly ash, quick lime and other materials accurately and with minimal dust. Site spreaders are mainly used for soil stabilization and remediation and full depth reclamation work.

A few years later, the company introduced yet another significant product, the Stoltz Site Spreader Controller, which combines all spreader control functions into a single interface. Initially designed for the company's low-dust dual auger style spreaders, it has been adapted to the conveyor chain-style spreaders.

The company was incorporated as C.U. Stoltzfus Mfg., Inc. in 1968. The founder served as president and chairman of the board until his death in 2000 at the age of 88. In 2009, the name was changed to Stoltz Mfg., LLC.

Hershberger said that in addition to its spreader lines, Stoltz Manufacturing has established a large domestic and overseas dealer network and an excellent reputation for customer service and response to the need for parts. "Our website also has a significant amount of technical information to help owners use our spreaders, for example, application rate charts, truck chassis selection guides and tractor recommendations."

But the bottom line, said Hershberger, is that today's Stoltz spreaders maintain the quality the founder built into the first one he sold. "We have a core group of quality employees who manufacture every Stoltz spreader in our plant in Morgantown. Our machines are built with the best steel, fully welded and manufactured to last a lifetime. 'C.U.' would be proud of how we have carried on his legacy."

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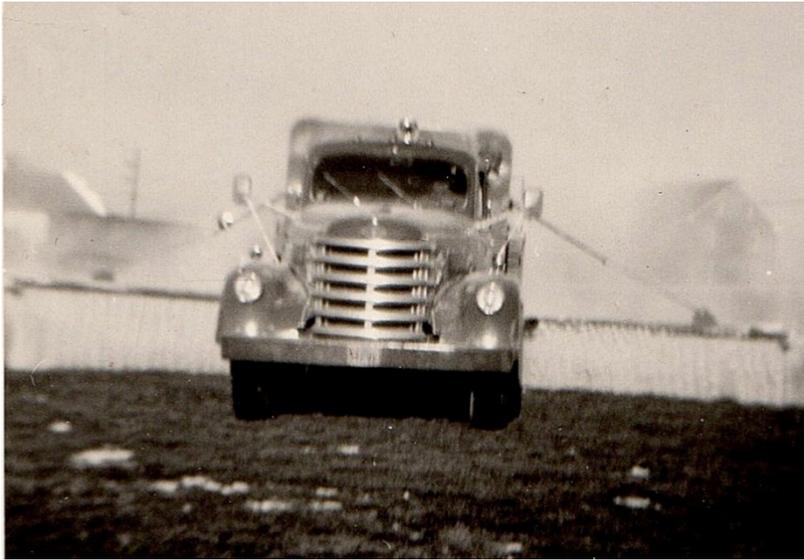
C. U. Stoltzfus, 33-year-old Morgantown, Pa., farmer and grist mill operator, invented the modern spreader in 1945 with a truck-mounted machine that minimized dust clouds surrounding him as he applied lime to his fields. Shown here with one of his earliest prototypes, he followed up with three more industry firsts: the wet lime spreader; a bulk material spreader that distributed lighter, bulky materials, and a ground-driven spreader with fertilizer accuracy and lime breakout strength.



Bernard Hershberger, owner of Stoltzfus Spreaders and grandnephew of C. U., with recently introduced Stoltzfus RC-1520 high-capacity lime and fertilizer spreader with welded unibody construction and axle settings adjustable up to 152 inches, widest on the market.

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C. U.'s spreaders came with 15-foot horizontal booms that applied lime and crushed nutrients close to the ground. Updated and refined over the next 70 years, the boom-style design endures as the benchmark process for applying dry-flowing materials.



In 1976 C. U. invented the wet lime spreader allowing farmers to backhaul truckloads of inexpensive lime and stockpile it in corners of their fields for use when conditions allowed. Subsequent improvements achieved accurate fertilizer spreading with rates as low as 125 pounds per acre

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In 1986 C. U. developed a bulk material spreader that applied lighter, bulky materials such as chicken litter, biosolids and compost while maintaining fertilizer precision, the first on the market to bring these capabilities together in a single machine.



In 1991 C. U. led a design team that developed the Stoltzfus Redhawk, incorporating an industry first dual-contact press wheel that married load breakout strength of his WLS with the accuracy of ground-driven fertilizer spreaders.

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C. U. never retired, staying active in development of new models and enhancements to existing equipment until he passed away in 2000 at age 88. Shown here in his eighties, he inspects one of his boom spreader designs. His inventions served as prototypes for virtually every lime spreader to follow, including those emulated by other manufacturers. Bernard Hershberger (right), owner of Stoltzfus Spreaders and grandnephew of C. U., inspects welded walking beam suspension supports with shop foreman Dave Nolt.

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