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Pressurized Tap Water Kills Weeds

Blast weeds with tap water, and you have dead weeds. No chemicals needed. That sums up the Caffini Grasskiller, and it was enough for John Staker to order one. He and his wife operate Ohio Valley Imports, bringing in specialized ag equipment not available in the U.S.

“Caffini is one of the companies we work with, and they offer exceptional products,

including the Grasskiller,” says Staker. “Tap water is sprayed through rotating nozzles at 14,500 psi, destroying the weeds by stripping the collar and disrupting the root system. This is accomplished without harming the plant, the soil, or the environment.”

The Grasskiller can be equipped with either one or two telescoping arms and heads, both of which are adjusted hydraulically.

Hydraulics also adjust the head position and the positioning sensor’s sensitivity, enabling use even around young plants.

Two head sizes are available, offering either an 11-in. control swath or a nearly 16-in. swath. The arms can extend nearly 12 ft. from the center of the tractor.

The Stakers began importing equipment for their lavender farm after recognizing a lack of equipment for the crop in the U.S. That led them to become sales representatives for a variety of companies that manufacture equipment for lavender farmers and other crops.

Staker is seeing the greatest interest in the Grasskiller by vineyard owners.

“Chemical use at the base of grapevines is a costly and time-consuming effort,” he says. “The cost of chemicals can be onerous for growers who spray year after year.”

In addition to high-value perennial crops such as grapes, Staker sees weed control along guardrails and on roadsides as another potential market. He plans to demonstrate the Grasskiller to multiple markets this spring.

“The demo unit we’ll be showcasing requires only a 50-hp tractor,” says Staker. “It’s a small unit, meant for small farms, and

holds only 158 gal. of solution. “As models increase in size and go from one head to two, the price increases.”

In addition to Staker’s demo unit, Caffini offers trailer-mounted systems with capacities of 264, 528 or 792 gal. The arms and heads can be mounted on the front of the tractor or on the trailing units.

Staker admits that a drawback of the tap water weed control is the cost of the sprayer. His 158-gal. rear-mounted tank with a front-mounted spray head is priced at \$52,999.

“The pumping system required to produce 14,500 psi is expensive and needs to be maintained properly,” says Staker.

Even so, Staker is confident the Grasskiller will find its market. He holds distribution rights in the U.S. and plans to establish dealerships. He advises Canadian readers of FARM SHOW to contact Caffini directly.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ohio Valley Imports, 9790 Baker Hanselman Rd., Georgetown, Ohio 45121 (ph 513-266-4481; johnstaker@ohiovalleyimports; www.ohiovalleyimports.com) or Caffini S.P.A., Via G. Marconi, 2, 37050 Palù, Verona, Italy (ph +390459581100; info@caffini.com; www.caffini.com).

Snap Lock Coops Offer Durable Housing

Formex Manufacturing of Lawrenceville, Ga., manufactures and sells Snap Lock Chicken Coops made from high-density polyethylene.

“The idea came from our engineer, who has chickens,” says company spokesperson Greg Boston. “He wanted to come up with a plastic solution that is both easy to ship and put together.”

Founded in 1961, the company specializes in thermoforming plastic products. The proprietary line includes 32 sizes of dock floats for the marine industry, as well as transformer pads, duct spacers, duct terminators, and bore spacers for the utility market.

Snap Lock Coops are durable and require minimal maintenance. Each is made from UV-stable polyethylene that withstands the elements in both hot and cold weather, as well as cleaners and disinfectants.

They’re also impervious to rot. When cleaning is necessary, a hose or a pressure

washer will make them sparkle again.

“Wood coops, in contrast, rot very quickly,” Boston says.

The double-wall construction provides insulation that keeps the walls cool in summer and warm in winter, while adjustable ventilation lets you control air circulation. A removable litter tray simplifies cleanup. The design is predator-resistant, with lockable access points, yet still allows easy access for egg collection. Both the litter tray and the nesting trays are removable.

Snap Lock Coop models include Standard (four to six chickens) and Big (12 to 15). The Standard Coop measures 42 in. long by 39 in. wide by 22 in. high (40 lbs.) and retails for \$606. The Big Coop measures 64 in. long by 39 in. wide by 42 in. high (65 lbs.) and retails for \$965.

“Both coops fit into boxes that are FedEx and UPS approved, with no oversized charges,” Boston says. “Better yet, they typically take less than 30 min. to assemble.”

No tools are required for assembly, and all hardware is included.

Each coop is self-contained and lightweight, making it easy to move. This makes them ideal for attaching to a chicken-tractor-style frame. Still, more permanent setups are possible. The kit can be placed directly on the ground or attached to a wooden frame.

“We have a stand with stairs and runs that are specifically designed for our coops,” Boston says.

The coops are sold only through authorized Formex retailers. Listings on AliExpress and similar foreign sites are likely counterfeit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Formex Manufacturing, Inc., 601 Hurricane Shoals Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, Ga. 30046 (ph 800-310-3867; sales@formex.com; www.snaplockchickencoops.com).



Double-wall construction provides insulation that keeps the walls cool in summer and warm in winter, while adjustable ventilation lets you control airflow.

Website Offers Sell-It-Yourself Or Auction Options

List farm equipment on Tractor Tuesday and sell it yourself, or put it on the Tuesday morning auction. Either way, it costs the seller nothing. Buyers on the auction pay a 5% premium, capped at \$7,500. Launched in Sept. 2024, the site caught on fast.

“When we launched, we had zero registered users,” says Zach Bosle of Tractor Tuesday. “We’re now at close to 15,000 total.”

Daily visitors to the website’s home page exceed 9,000, while visitors to the various unit listings exceed 114,000. Bosle gives potential buyers plenty of reasons to visit. A farmer with a tech background, he’d been selling machinery on the side and helping local farmers market their machinery.

“I had had good luck with online auctions, but though there were a few ways to be better and put more marketing power in farmers’ hands,” says Bosle. “I was on a mission to give sellers the tools to sell for themselves.”

Bosle spent six months developing his concept before launching. The upfront work shows in an extremely user-friendly website. It lists auctions, daily deals, how to list, dealer pages and Bosle’s blog.

Sellers submit machine details and media, along with either a requested Tuesday auction date or a retail listing. The listing is approved, declined or more information is

requested. For the auction listing, it goes live and remains on the site until the auction ends on the requested Tuesday.

If the retail option is selected, the machine is listed on Daily Deals, and prospective buyers either make an offer or accept the asking price and place a down payment with Tractor Tuesday. When the auction ends or the sale is made, a step-by-step checklist and buyer and seller contact information are provided to finalize transaction details and logistics. Financing is available.

Bosle offers a free guide, “How to Get Top Dollar When Selling Farm Equipment,” to help sellers maximize their sales. It’s designed to help sellers understand what buyers look for and the steps that can lead to better outcomes.

“It hurts us to see a listing that’s substandard,” he says. “Too often, listings aren’t put together well, even from major firms. With our guide, we’re trying to create standards we can share with customers and others. It offers pointers to help the buyer fall in love with the equipment at first glance.”

Bosle says the guide will be available in hardcover in April, priced to cover costs. Suggestions include taking high-quality photos, even hiring a professional. Do a quick video walk-around and cold start. Shoot in

landscape mode on your phone and upload to the platform.

Sellers are required to post their equipment only on Tractor Tuesday. Once equipment is listed, they’re encouraged to respond to any comments or questions and to provide additional pictures or videos as requested. A “Contact Seller” note on listings allows buyers to ask additional questions.

Bosle maintains a video blog on the website where he shares his thoughts on new equipment, recaps auctions, and interviews sellers. In a recent video, he shared his concerns about the current state of the farm economy.

“A lot of guys want to hold onto extra equipment, but there’s a major disconnect too often on what the cash value is,” says Bosle. “If they wait until the banker says get it to auction, there may be a glut of equipment for sale. I’m afraid the market won’t absorb the inventory, and it’ll drive down prices.



Tractor Tuesday equipment sale website image. Site is growing quickly with new visitors and listings.

Machinery dealers have already done a good job trying to reduce their inventory. Farmers should too, and sooner, not later.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tractor Tuesday, (as of April 2nd) 1130 W. J St., Hastings, Neb. 68901 (ph 402-702-2222; info@tractortuesday.com; www.tractortuesday.com; Facebook: Tractor Tuesday).