

## GRAIN BAGS | CLOSURES

# Inventor improves device to simplify grain bag sealing

**BagZipper** | Producers don't have to get down on hands and knees

BY RON LYSENG  
WINNIPEG BUREAU

There's not much point spending \$800 on a grain bag if producers don't securely seal the end for an airtight storage environment.

Most producers use planks, soil and other heavy objects to seal their bags, but it's a time consuming, often back-wrenching chore. As a result, it isn't always done to perfection, leaving grain in the bag ends vulnerable to deterioration.

Mike Curry of Curry Industries thinks his new Poly Fastener Bag Zipper machine should make grain bag storage more convenient. It can seal a grain bag in one minute.

"Up until now, sealing the open end has been a very primitive process," Curry said.

"I've heard some real horror stories. Plus, guys hate working down on their hands and knees like that. It's really hard on the back.

"First you pull the open end together with two by fours and nails or wood screws. Then you roll it up and tuck it under. You can spend a lot of time trying to do it right."



The insert strip runs through a guide at the nose of the machine. As it's pushed forward, the nylon rollers press the insert strip down into the channel to form a Ziploc type seal on the grain bag.

Curry Industries came out with a bag zipper system more than 30 years ago.

The operator lays a poly channel flat on the ground, positions the two bag layers into the channel and sets an insert strip over the poly bag. As the insert strip is manually pressed into the channel, it pushes the bag material snugly into the channel, forming the airtight seal.

However, Curry said the system wasn't without drawbacks. The handheld roller-sealer required producers to get down on their hands and knees to press the insert strip

into the channel.

Each piece of channel and insert strip is reuseable.

Curry said he designed his new machine in response to retailers who told him their customers wanted an easier way to zip the bags shut.

"The old hand held roller was almost as much of a nuisance as working with the boards," he said. "The new sealer puts an end to that."

The new machine is designed so the operator walks upright while pressing in the insert strip. The channel and insert strip are positioned the same as



Mike Curry says his new Poly Fastener Bag Zipper lets farmers seal a grain bag in less than a minute. | RON LYSENG PHOTOS

before, but the operator locks the insert strip into the nose of the zipper and then stands up and pushes it forward.

Two nylon rollers guide the insert strip into the channel and the grain bag seals up almost like a Ziploc kitchen bag.

"Once you're in the field, it takes 10 to 15 minutes to set it all up. After that,

you can zip a grain bag shut in less than a minute. It will save a lot of time and give you a positive seal."

For dealer nearest to you contact sales@curryindustries.com or call toll free: 1-800-538-0008.

For more information, contact Mike Curry at 800-538-0008 or visit www.curryindustries.com.

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## GRAIN BAGS | TEMPERATURE

## Wireless probe simplifies detection of hot spots in bagged grain

BY RON LYSENG  
WINNIPEG BUREAU

Without the benefit of fans or aeration, early hot-spot detection is the only way to protect bagged grain.

Wireless technology has simplified that challenge.

Dimo's Labtronics introduced a wireless infrared temperature probe this winter that is designed to function with its Motomco 919 Smart Chart II handheld unit.

Dubbed the Rigid Wireless Multi-Sensor Probe, the unit can carry up to eight independent sensors, each capable of transmitting temperature data to a hand-held receiver 75 metres away, says Jason Diehl of Labtronics.

The company began marketing its modified Motomco 919 in the 1990s, and it eventually evolved into the computerized Smart Chart.

"To go along with that, we developed a small temperature probe that plugs directly into the Smart Chart II, basically giving the second generation Smart Chart another function as a thermometer," he said.

"Then three years ago, we added a stand-alone, 10 foot bin probe to feed information into the system. But that had only one infrared sensor up at the tip."

Diehl said the next logical step was a wireless temperature probe with multiple infrared sensors.

The threaded aluminum shaft comes in five foot sections and each section has two sensors. Producers



Dimo's Labtronics has developed a wireless infrared temperature probe. | JASON DIEHL PHOTO

can screw them together and go all the way up to 20 feet, providing eight temperature points.

"There's no cables and no wires between the sections," he said.

"Each sensor sends directly to the receiver, which plugs into the top of your existing Smart Chart II. All existing Smart Chart II units can be set up to work with the new probe."

Diehl expects the price to be less than \$1,000 when the unit becomes available this summer.

For more information, contact Jason Deal 204-772-6998 or visit www.labtronics.ca.