

Silo Cleaning Equipment Donation

KSU FEED PROGRAM RECEIVES NEW MOLE•MASTER SILO CLEANING EQUIPMENT



Mole•Master Services Corporation, Marietta, OH (800-322-6653), in late January announced the donation of a Junior™ 360° whip machine to the Kansas State University (KSU) Feed Management program. The announcement was made during the 2017 International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta, GA.

The donation strengthens a two-year partnership between KSU and the silo cleaning equipment manufacturer and service provider.

Each spring since 2015, Mole•Master's Dan Bruenderman, project engineer and manager, and Michael Bailey, project manager and technical sales manager, have used their expertise to help train students of KSU's Feed Technology II course by using hands-on demonstrations of clearing material blockages, cleaning bins, facility safety, and maintenance.

According to Bailey, the donation will allow bins to be cleaned out year-round without entry at KSU's eight-story pilot feed mill, the O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center.

"This will help the pilot feed mill run more safely and smoothly and provide students with consistent access to the equipment," he says.



Mole•Master's Michael Bailey discusses the benefits of the Junior™ 360° with K-State's Dr. Charles Stark and Dr. Gordon Smith.



From left: Mole•Master's Dan Bruenderman, K-State's Dr. Gordon Smith, K-State feed students Ryan Lierz and Emily Hoy, K-State's Dr. Charles Stark, and Mole•Master's Michael Bailey at the 2017 International Production and Processing Expo in Atlanta, GA.

Junior 360° Whip Machine

The Junior™ 360° whip machine comes in two models: KSU received the JR360H model, which is designed with a hydraulically-actuated cutting head. (The other model, the JR360P, utilizes a pneumatically-actuated cutting head.)

"The JR360H boasts the smallest cutting head on the market at five inches in diameter, which allows it to fit into a smaller 'rathole' or flow channel and begin enlarging it," explains Bailey.

According to KSU Associate Professor of Feed Technology Dr. Charles Stark, "The Junior™ 360° is portable – it can be used on top of any bin, and it allows students to use professional equipment to properly clean bins in the safest manner possible."

Ryan Lierz, KSU feed student, says "companies are already using equipment like this. Hands-on experience means we will know how to use the equipment, and will be able to train others."

Mole•Master/KSU Partnership

In 2015, KSU approached Mole•Master about fixing material blockages in two bins at its O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation Center.

Mole•Master used its Junior™ 360° whip machine to clear the blockages, which were due to material hung up on the side walls of the bins.

At that time, Dr. Stark and Mole•Master realized the educational potential of having the company demonstrate to students the operation of its bin cleaning equipment.

This led to a partnership between KSU and Mole•Master wherein the company provides one day of training each spring to students in the Feed Technology II course.

Tucker Scharfenberg, associate editor