

Revolutionary Hemp Harvester

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Hemp farming continues to grow. In 2019, according to Vote Hemp's annual survey of state agriculture departments, U.S. farmers have been licensed to grow 511,442 acres of hemp—a 455 percent increase over 2018 levels. And farmers across the nation are learning firsthand how hard it is to grow, harvest, and dry this crop. The most challenging is the harvesting, drying, and bucking (stripping the flower off the stalk). Today, most hemp is still harvested by hand. Farmers have found combines are ill-suited for hemp. The cost of harvesting, drying, and bucking remain the costliest part of hemp agriculture.

RHHE, LLC which stands for Revolutionary Hemp Harvest Equipment in western Colorado has developed the most innovative and promising hemp harvesting machine every produced. With its patent pending vertical orientation, the RHHE harvester strips the flower and bud off the stem in the field. The three-row header is powered by an OXBO 2430 power chassis and this year harvested up to 40 acres per day in western Colorado.

Lead inventor, Toby McCracken said, “We have combined the harvesting and bucking process into a single step which can now be done with one man driving a machine. And, by leaving the stalk and stem in the field, drying time is reduced to 24 hours.” In 2018, Toby began working with Mike Meyer, a life-long entrepreneur who began working in the hemp industry in 2016. The pair travelled to southern Oregon to visit well established hemp farms and learn best practices for growing and harvesting hemp. It was during this trip that Toby, running his fingers through a branch of hemp first conceived of the idea of “stripping” the bud off the plant in the field.

Most agricultural combines use a horizontal header that works great for wheat and grains but do not do work well with hemp. The vertical header can strip approximately



2 Fresh harvest hemp flower filling the hopper.

90% of the bud

and flower off the plant leaving stalk and stem in the field. Co-inventor, Mike Meyer said, “Seeing the wet bud in the harvester hopper stripped from the plant is a dream come true for extractors. The trichomes are better preserved and there is minimal losses in the harvesting and drying process.”

Toby and Mike arranged for a demonstration of the vertical header for leaders of Oxbo International. Brian Maul, Chris Schloesser, and



1 Side view of the Revolutionary Hemp Harvester powered by an OXBO 2430.

Curt Schaben travelled to the western slope and immediately understood the genius of the invention. Oxbo agreed to build a three-header prototype which was delivered in Colorado around September 5th and immediately went to work harvesting maturing hemp crops on the western slope of Colorado. The vertical stripping worked and Toby and the Oxbo team continued to make modifications to improve stripping efficiency, discharge of harvested material, and ideal operating speeds and standards.

By late October, with Toby's brother, Ben McCracken, driving the hemp harvester, he was able to harvest up to 40 acres per day with just one other person in the field. The three-row header fills the Oxbo 2430 hopper with beautifully stripped bud. *(overhead picture/video of harvester in a field)* The hopper is dumped into a live bottom truck and the hemp is transported to their 34,000-sf drying facility in Delta, CO. The harvested flower is removed from the truck to a conveyor where quality control team picks out any stems and debris placing wet flower into bins custom designed for drying hemp. The team has perfected hemp drying methods that can dry up to 60,000 lbs. per day.

Toby and Mike have shown the machine to several large growers. The concept has generated significant interest for purchasing in 2020. Looking to 2020, RHHE and Oxbo are working to determine the best way to bring their Revolutionary Harvester and drying methods to the hemp industry. The innovation of the RHHE header coupled with the legacy of Oxbo in specialty crops harvesting business creates a solution unmatched in the market today.

For more information contact:

RHHE, LLC
Toby McCracken
(970) 901-1822
info@revolutionaryhempharvester.com
website: www.revolutionaryhempharvester.com

About RHHE: RHHE develops original agricultural equipment and solutions for the hemp industry. The Revolutionary Hemp Harvester and best in industry drying methods combine to make RHHE a leader in hemp farming automation. Based in western Colorado, RHHE core values are rooted in honesty, innovation, and finding solutions to the industry's biggest equipment challenges.

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