

“Vinegar Guys” Sell Raw Vinegar In Bulk

After years of seeing the benefits of feeding raw apple cider vinegar to his livestock, Brian Buessing decided to get into the business of offering it to others in bulk. Unlike processed vinegar, the raw form still has the acetic acid bacteria or *Acetobacter* that help transform apple cider and wine into vinegar. According to Buessing, the snotty looking material suspended in the vinegar is referred to as “the mother.”

“The mother stays alive in the raw vinegar until it’s pasteurized and filtered,” he explains.

Buessing and other long-time users of vinegar as a supplement suggest that it’s the presence of the mother that produces the most benefits. He cites customers who claim improvements in overall health and productivity.

“One Pennsylvania dairyman told me he’s getting the same milk production with 20 percent less feed,” says Buessing. Buessing says he has been feeding raw vinegar in his diversified livestock operation for about 5 years. “The most obvious change is shinier hair coats and bright eyes,” he says. “I also don’t have problems with foot rot or pink eye

any more. My pigs reach market 10 days to 2 weeks earlier and on less feed.”

Usage recommendations vary. The raw vinegar can be provided to animals free choice in water or in feed. Buessing suggests users find what works best for their operation. He does offer in-depth recommendations on his website. General recommendations for sheep and cattle are 4 to 6 oz. per 1,000 lbs., but 150-lb. calves receiving it in water may get 3 oz. a day. He suggests giving pigs and chickens 3 to 4 gal. of vinegar per ton of feed.

“I think it was better known how to use it in our grandparents day,” he says. “It is almost like we are rediscovering how to use it.”

Buessing bought his raw vinegar distribution business from his former supplier, a fellow grazer. He now ships raw vinegar across the country. *Acetobacter* occur naturally in the air, and anyone can make raw vinegar. However, the process is slow.

“Our supplier adds *Acetobacter* to apple cider to speed the process and reduce the cost,” explains Buessing.

Keeping costs down, especially shipping costs, is the biggest challenge Buessing faces. He now has warehouses set up in several



Brian Buessing fed raw apple cider vinegar to his livestock for years and saw the benefits, so he decided to get into the business of offering it to others in bulk.

states around the country that make shipping more economical. However, costs can still vary locally depending on available shippers. While he can ship to Canada, shipping costs may discourage potential customers. Buessing is hoping to add more dealers and warehouses to his network.

The bulk vinegar retails for \$3 per gal.

in 275-gal. totes. It’s also available in 55-gal. drums in 4-drum pallets for \$3.25/gal. Organic raw ACV is priced at \$5.50 per gal. in 4-drum pallet loads.

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Radically redesigned Mono-Rad Concept 1.0 forecart is designed to use draft horsepower more efficiently.



New-Style Forecart Boosts Efficiency

A radical redesign of the forecart may change how horse-powered equipment is used. The Mono-Rad Concept 1.0 forecart, developed in Luxembourg, uses draft horse power more efficiently. Both shaft and singletree connection points can be adjusted quickly and easily. On-board sensors make it ideal for comparing implements, but also for adjusting operation for greater efficiency.

“This forecart was designed to test various shaft options for hitching a single draft horse to different implements,” explains Paul Schmit, Schaff mat Päerd (Working with Horses). “The Mono-Rad Concept 1.0 adapts implements quickly and easily to different sized horses. Draft force and speed sensors measure the pulling effort of the horse during work with different implements.”

Schaff mat Päerd is a non-profit research group. They design and build prototypes of new equipment for use with draft horses in small-scale gardening, wine growing and farming.

A main feature of the Mono-Rad forecart is the 3-wheel concept. The single steering wheel and frame attach directly to any 2-wheel implement, creating a rigid 3-wheel unit. That is true of standard horse-drawn designs as well as smaller tractor-drawn units. The single front steering wheel reduces steering force, while the rear wheels carry the bulk of the load.

“The draft force of the horse is centered on the center of the front wheel,” notes Schmit. “This eliminates lateral forces transmitted by the shafts on the horse’s belly while pulling an implement.”

The operator walking alongside can



Forecart’s single steering wheel and frame attach directly to any 2-wheeled implement, creating a rigid 3-wheeled unit.

activate the brake lever, which can be offset to either side. The same lever can be used to manually steer the front wheel if desired.

The forecart has a total width of about 35 in. and a length of 32 1/2 in. without shafts. It’s equipped with disk brakes and springs, and weighs 205 lbs.

Schaff mat Päerd doesn’t produce equipment it develops, but has in the past licensed them to an Italian partner. Equi Idea has commercialized several implements and is expected to handle the forecart.

“The estimated price is about \$1,090 for the single wheel forecart, including shafts at the front and the implement adapter at the rear,” says Schmit.

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New Spiral Closing Wheel For Planters

RFM Ag, a prominent Australian equipment manufacturer, has introduced a unique closing wheel for drills and planters that offers the dual action of a leveling harrow and a coil packer in one product.

Paul Ryan, sales director for RFM, says the wheel is self-cleaning so it works in heavy trash, sticky soil conditions, or sand. And it isn’t affected by small rocks. Ryan says the unique coil design presses air out of the soil around the seed, producing outstanding seed-to-soil contact while maintaining seed placement at the desired planting depth. The unique squeezing action of the coils allows it to self-clean sticky soil and trash and to not pick up seed.

The 15 1/2-in. coil-shaped press wheels are available with 2 or 3 coils to match the closing action needed. Ryan says the wheel mounts on existing closing wheel brackets for Deere or Kinze planters and also fits other planters as well. Down pressure is adjustable to match different soil conditions and the mounting angle can be altered if liquid fertilizer or other products are incorporated into the sowing row.

Ryan says farmers who’ve used the RFM wheel in standing stubble find that it handles and incorporates stubble well without removing seed from the furrow. The device has been used for planting cotton, small grains, canola, corn, soybeans and grasses. The coils mount equally well on drill or row-type planters.



RFM Ag closing wheel for drills and planters offers the dual action of a leveling harrow and a coil packer in one product.

RFM Ag is a leader in developing and building equipment for no-till farming. The 40-year-old company developed the spring-release wide line cultivator in 1962, introduced air seeding technology in 1977 and now offers several types of press harrows, double discs and press wheels.

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