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SAND TRAP BLUES?...WE GOT THE FIX FOR THAT!

It goes on every year. You dump the sand trap in the fall during your winterization process and come spring when you start the system back up the thing is blowing water out the bottom because it split open at the weld. But you dumped it right, there was no water in it last fall, "What the heck happened?!!!" you say.

Well, constant temperature change and different humidity levels throughout the fall, winter and spring has caused the pivot pipeline to form condensation and after time this runs to the low spot.... the sand trap, which fills up, freezes and when full enough, splits the bottom off.

Well, just a second you say. I'll fix that and just leave the dang thing off. Come spring you've forgotten about that sand trap being left off and your busy with other farm stuff, you know, like tillage, planting, spraying. Then comes irrigation time and you then remember to put the sand trap on, start the pivot and the end gun doesn't work. "What's wrong now you say" We see it all the time, you just packed your end gun full of bird's nest and what comes next is not fun. This happens EVERYTIME, not just occasionally. Leave the sand trap off and you will have birds in the pipe, it never fails.

We have an answer for this. FSI offers a special sand trap cover with built in screen. This allows the water to drain out during the winter and spring and keeps the birds out in the spring. You can also flush the system without having to go to the end tower first. Stop by and see Davey for one or more, and stop digging the bird's nest out of your end gun!



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

And yes, that statement works for farm irrigation with center pivot systems as well. We see it all summer long and it is becoming more prevalent with the number of systems that are going in every year. What do we see you ask? Pivot crashes, that's what we see. And this year we seen plenty and from a multitude of causes, such as barricades moved or knocked over, trees falling on them, farm equipment left in the way or running into, wind damage and on and on and on. Most of these issues are preventable and below is a list of what to look for.

1. PART CIRCLE SYSTEMS USING BARRICADES

A pre-season check of the condition of all barricades as well as checking that the system contacts them correctly to shut the machine off. Barricades can be prone to field equipment damage in the fall and spring and often forgotten about until the system has crashed.

2. PIVOT BRIDGES

Whether it be a culvert covered with earth or a fabricated steel bridge of sorts, these need to be monitored regularly for condition. Large rain events can overload ditches causing erosion which can move bridges and then towers miss and crash. A regular patrol throughout the season is a good idea to prevent towers from going into ditches and collapsing. We have even seen where ditches have had routine cleaning, and this caused the bridge to drop, and the tower missed and brought down the span.

3. EQUIPMENT PARKING

Taking the time before starting a system to check that nothing has been parked in its path may seem a waste, but this happens frequently. Training farm employees to know where to leave equipment so it is out of the pivot circle or not in a wheel track is time well spent. This often happens during spring planting or fall harvest when equipment is parked overnight and then the system is started to move it out of the way to continue work the next day.

4. ADVERSE TERRAIN

Avoid parking systems on sidehills. While Reinke systems (depending on span lengths and end boom combinations) are designed to operate on 15-18% grades, leaving them parked in those situations is not desirable. High wind events may cause the system to roll over in certain conditions if the system is already leaning due to sitting on a sidehill.

5. PIVOTS THAT CROSS PATHS

While we typically will avoid designing systems that interfere with each other, there are times when this is necessary to get the most coverage. The grower is always made aware of this and doesn't have any issues. The problem comes when someone not familiar with the systems begins operating them and ends up leaving the machines in areas where they can come together. Leaving well written notes in the panels and training farm employees of possible system conflicts goes along way to avoiding costly mid-season collisions.

Simply taking a little time to ensure that your system is going to operate correctly and avoid crashing or being placed in a situation that can cause a crash is time well spent. If the inevitable does happen FSI is fully stocked with genuine



CLASSIFIEDS



\$12,500

CADMAN 2625 (USED)

- 2.625 ID hose/900' long
- 155 - 205 gpm
- 240' - 252' lane spacing
- Shows little use



\$2,500

BERKELEY B4EYRMBH PUMP (USED)

- Frame mount/coupling drive
- 5" flanged suction
- 4" flanged discharge
- 1000 gpm @ 158 psi @2000 rpm w/200 hp



\$2,500

BERKELEY B4JQBH SAE 2 PUMP (USED)

- 1200 gpm @ 140 psi (125 hp required)
- 950 gpm @ 140 psi (100 hp required)



\$2,000

BERKELEY B3ZPBH 30 HP PUMP (USED)

- Baldor electric motor 480v 3 phase
- 4" flanged suction
- 3" flanged discharge
- Packing/7.125 impeller
- 500 gpm @ 73 psi



\$2,100

BERKELEY B3ZPBH 40 HP PUMP (USED)

- Baldor electric motor 480v 3 phase
- 4" flanged suction/3" flanged discharge
- Packing/7.5 impeller
- 700 gpm @ 78 psi



\$1,500

NACD SAE MOUNT PTO CLUTCH (USED)

- SAE 3# bellhousing
- 140 hp rated
- Includes ring gear & PTO shaft
- Low hours

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SERVICE TIP OF THE MONTH



Adam Vanderwal of Treyline Supply & Manufacturing, our supplier of high quality variable frequency drive panels and phase converters, recommends removing the pressure transducer at the well when not in use over the winter. This summer, we have seen multiple failures of this part due to freezing of water in the transducer through the winter months. Most transducers have a quick disconnect for wiring and are threaded into the pipe at the well. Screw a 1/4" NPT pipe plug in its place to keep debris from entering the pipe during the off season.

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