



Grapevine Intelligence

March 2008

Fight frost with Amarillo Wind Machines and Skeltons

Skeltons is the North Island distributor of Amarillo wind machines for FMR (Farm Machinery & Repairs), Blenheim.

Over 500 Amarillo have been sold and placed in the South Island for successful frost fighting over the past five years, testament to the efficiency and effectiveness of this product's performance and reliability.

The most popular of the installed Amarillo options is the fully automatic John Deere 6 cylinder turbo charged diesel engine producing 172HP gross @ 2400rpm. With 25ltrs/hr fuel consumption this JD motor is rubber mounted above a 540ltr fuel tank and completely encased for protection from the weather, security and safety.

A two-fan aluminium blade achieves maximum velocity-to-thrust ratio of wind for frost fighting 6 hectares of crop (solid Fibreglass is optional).



Agrecovery – the way of the future

Skeltons is a Hawke's Bay recycling depot for Agrecovery. Bring in your old plastic containers and we'll help dispose of them in an economical and environmentally friendly way.

The Agrecovery Foundation, a not-for-profit charitable trust, has been established to facilitate the recycling of agricultural plastic containers in the rural sector.

The Foundation, which pays all the cost to operate the programme, is funded by a small levy on every litre or kilogram of eligible product. The levy is collected by the supporting agricultural companies and passed on to the foundation.

Agrecovery aims to provide a long-term solution for plastic containers in the agricultural, horticultural and forestry sector.

The plastic is picked up from collection sites nationwide by mobile processing trucks, which shred the containers into small pieces. The plastic is then supplied to Astron Plastics, a New Zealand based plastics recycler, which processes the material into products including underground drainage pipes and hazard identification sheets to cover electrical cable cover.

The service offered by Agrecovery and Skeltons fits well with sustainable wine growing and it is this alignment that allows a win-win solution for all.

Bring us your plastics!

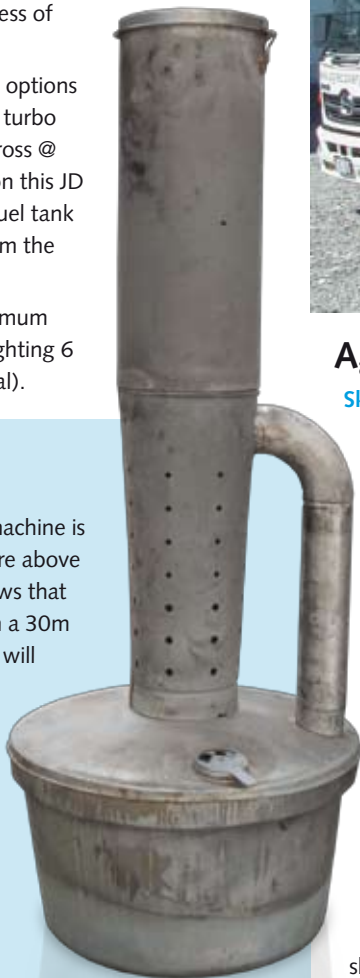
Diesel heating

Inversion heat pulled down by any wind machine is not always enough to keep the temperature above zero. Work done by Microclimate NZ shows that the placement of 20 diesel stack heaters in a 30m circle around the base of a windmill tower will give another 0.8 - 1 degree lift in the frost-fought area. The energy outputs from one of these diesel heaters with only one hole open produces approximately 38.7KW burning 3.8ltrs/hr fuel consumption. With all three holes open the approx energy output is 70.3kw and 7.2ltrs/hr fuel consumption.

Special prices for early orders apply until March 31.

Smartlite Temperature Gauge

Smartlites are designed to measure low temperature differences, displayed by LED lights: Green for 1-3 degrees, White for 0-1degrees and Red for -1 – 0 degrees. The strategic placement of these Smartlites within and outside the frost-fought area will save you both time and money. Skeltons is also an agent for these.



**For more information on any of the articles in this newsletter please phone Skeltons technical advisors
James Cropper 0274 428 948
or Blake Herbison 0272 844 147.**



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Viticulture Development Skeltons has your needs covered

Our Hastings store in Ruahapia Road enables us to stock a wider range of the products you need to run your vineyard efficiently and effectively. Feel free to call in and check us out.

Wire

- 2.5mm HT wire 650m coils
- 2.5mm HT wire 1000m coils
- 3.15mm wire (for end assemblies)

Posts

- 2.4m rounds
- 2.4m pointed rounds (stays)
- 2.4m ¼ rounded posts
- 2.7m pointed strainers
- 1.8m ½ round posts
- Stay blocks

Fencing gear

- 2.5mm crimps
- Permanent Hayes strainers and ratchet tool
- Straining gear

Wire care clips and nails

- Post staples

Electric pruning gear

- Felcotronic
- Pellenc

Tractor / Implement accessories

- Lynch pins
- Drawbar pins
- Top link pins
- Sleeves
- Grip Clips

Frost protection

- Amarillo Wind Machines
- Stack heaters
- Frost protection chemicals
- Smart lights

Planting / training

- Vine guards (sleeves / milk cartons)
- Bamboo stakes / string
- Plant fertiliser tablets

Grass seed

- Perennial Rye
- Annual Rye

Other cover crops

Irrigation gear

- Joiners and fittings
- Jiffi clips

Sprayer nozzles

Services

Our range of services include:

- Mapping
- Monitoring
- Truck delivery
- Soil / Petiole testing

Development and maintenance options covered

When it comes to development or ongoing vineyard maintenance, Skeltons offers a range of posts, stays, strainers and wire as well as advice that will help achieve your goals on the vineyard.

The wire stocked is a range from the Legacy brand. This wire is the standard high tensile 2.5 gauge wire but is coated in 95 percent zinc and 5 percent aluminium which doubles the life of the wire compared to normal galvanised wire. Another benefit is that Legacy has a metre machine that measures the coil to length rather than weight, making it possible to produce coils to suit the length of the rows on any vineyard, minimising wastage.

Our Hastings store also carries a range of training gear eg. string, bamboo stakes, tape guns, vine guards, milk cartons and fertiliser tablets.

Pruning wound dressings

When winter pruning of your vines it's important to protect all cuts into living plant tissue as they can stay susceptible to disease infection for up to 14 days.

Wood-infecting diseases such as Eutypa lata and Botryosphaeria infect vines via susceptible pruning wounds during or after rainfall events. It is not advisable or recommended to prune during rain, and to destroy and remove all infected material that can re-infect.

Bacseal Super or Garrison applied as a wound dressing will seal, protect and help with callusing. Also available is Vinevax Pruning Wound Dressing, a bio-inoculant containing Tricoderma that forms a living protective barrier against wood invading fungi.

Apply a liberal spray directly on all pruning cuts immediately or at the end of the day (weather permitting). Your Skeltons technical advisor is available to discuss all aspects of the management of wood infecting diseases during pruning.

\$10,000 cash available to research that great idea!

Once again we're looking for great ideas that could benefit Hawke's Bay's wine industry's competitive advantage and the industry's future well being.

The Skeltons Viticulture Development Grant of \$10,000 is available to the successful applicant/s to research, trial, travel, investigate or even tinker to transform that great brainwave into reality.

The project can include any aspect of viticulture practice from soil to delivery of grapes to the winery. So long as you can show it has appropriate relevance to industry needs, the Grant Selection Panel will consider it. Applications close on 30 May 2008 so don't delay.

Phone or email Ian Gold for an application form – phone 06 876 8029 email ian@skeltons.co.nz

For any further information on any of these products or services please contact our store manager Hamish McDonald on 876 8029 or 027 488 2320 or Skeltons technical advisors James Cropper 0274 428 948 or Blake Herbison 0272 844 147.

