

One million fertiliser spreaders sold

Precision right from the beginning

One million fertiliser spreaders sold allows AMAZONE, in 2013, to look back on a success story that does not exist anywhere else. For this we say “thank you” to all farmers, contractors and sales partners who have relied on us and who have made this success possible.

The latest model in this success story is the state-of-the-art ZA-TS twin disc spreader: with integrated boundary spreading device, weigh-cell technology, GPS control, working widths of up to 54 m and many, many more features. And of course, this is the 7th generation of AMAZONE ZA fertiliser spreaders – them all legendary with regard to precision, efficiency and operational comfort and which have, again and again, set new yardsticks.



It hardly seems credible when one sees these high-tech spreaders, how their success story once started. It began almost 100 years ago, in a time when mineral fertiliser was still spread manually on most farms. So the AMAZONE founder, Heinrich Dreyer, invented in 1915 a new worm auger spreader and applied for a patent on it. Compared with the slit spreaders and chain fertiliser spreaders, which were already in use, this worm auger spreader, known by the model name “Michel”, proved to be easier to pull and more precise. Offered in different widths from 1.5 to 4 m, it could evenly distribute in the field all the usual fertilisers, irrespective of whether dry or wet. In addition, due to relatively low production costs, it was also affordable for smaller farms and thus very quickly conquered wider agriculture.

Sales developed so successfully that AMAZONE had already, from the beginning of the thirties, taken over the market leadership in fertiliser spreaders. In total, AMAZONE has sold more than 250,000 worm auger spreaders in the most versatile versions. Even during the sixties, more than 10,000 units left the assembly line. Then, however, the demand slowly receded and in 1986 the production was stopped completely. Basically in the meantime, the AMAZONE ZA twin disc spreader had replaced the worm auger spreader as the most success model.

“We have to supplement the AMAZONE programme by □a centrifugal spreader”, so said Prof. h.c. (SAA Samara) Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz Dreyer RAAS in 1958, after he had taken over together with his cousin, Klaus Dreyer as the third generation of AMAZONE general management. Although some suppliers already sold single disc fertiliser spreaders or pendulum spreaders he, as being responsible for furthering the technical development within AMAZONE, very quickly had the twin disc brainwave. A centrifugal spreader with two discs should operate considerably better than a single disc spreader. So, Prof. h.c. (SAA Samara) Dr. Dr. h.c. Heinz Dreyer RAAS developed, in just a short time, the first twin disc mounted spreader, the AMAZONE ZA. The initials ZA stood for the abbreviation of “Zentrifugalstreuer-Anbaumaschine”.

The ZA developed into an even larger success story which again made AMAZONE unrivalled in the sector of fertiliser spreaders again for a long time. Since 1958, AMAZONE has sold far more

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than 700,000 ZA fertiliser spreaders – at times even more than 30,000 units per year – and thus could maintain the solid market leadership for fertiliser spreaders in Germany and other countries.

The successful main principles of the ZA fertiliser spreader included the spreading discs being driven in opposing directions, allowing, under all conditions, a mirrored, evenly precise spread pattern to both the left and right hand side of the tractor. On the other hand, the constant, adjustable PTO shaft speed also ensured a constant speed of the spreading discs. So the fertiliser spreader is quickly and easily adjusted for different types of fertiliser and working widths. These basic principles were so successful that they are still included today on most spreaders.

Many other AMAZONE innovations followed and have still further promoted the ZA success story, such as, for example, the swivel blade technology for late top dressing. Other milestones were also the exchange disc system for yet larger and variable working widths (currently up to 54 m) and the development of boundary and side spreading systems.

Especially successful models, and trendsetting at their time, were, above all, the legendary series: ZA-F, ZA-U and ZA-M, where, on the whole, the many basic principles of the ZA fertiliser spreaders were maintained throughout these models. Whereas, however, in the early years of the ZA, it was just the sophisticated mechanics that created the success, later on it was the hydraulic functionality and the electronics that were to promote still further the ZA-spreader.

With hopper sizes of up to 4,200 litres and operational speeds of about 20 km/h, these big capacity models from the new ZA-TS spreader range today manage hourly work rates of up to 50 ha. Even more efficient are the new trailed ZG-TS spreaders, with hopper sizes from 5,500 up to 8,200 litres, which are also equipped with the new TS spreading system. Additionally, with their weigh-cell technology, disc integrated AutoTS boundary spreading device, GPS-Switch and their state-of-the-art ISOBUS terminals; they simultaneously fulfil the highest demands for precision.

One million of fertiliser spreaders sold is not only an impressive figure but also the clear proof that AMAZONE, from that early beginning until today, is the trendsetting manufacturer of fertiliser spreaders, and long shall this continue to be the case in future.

