

# Allan Equipment Five Decades Fabricating Experience

By Maurice Rees

Yes, blueberry harvesters and mowers are part of the product line offered by Allan Equipment Manufacturing Ltd, but they have much more to offer. Allan Equipment is Prince Edward Island owned and operated, the company has developed its expertise by manufacturing quality potato equipment for over 50 years and they are Canada's largest designer and manufacturer of potato harvesting equipment.

Allan Equipment is proud of its line of electric blueberry equipment. The mowers and harvesters operate on a 3 phase, 480 volt PTO generator. They offer finishing mowers in 3 and 5 gang units. The 3 gang mower can be equipped with either 3' or 4' heads. The 5 gang mower comes with 3' heads and a standard rear steering axle. Allan Equipment has taken technology to a new level with a touch screen in-cab control terminal for their single head electric blueberry harvesters.

Additional standard harvester features include: 36" picking

head; head reverse; tough spring steel rakes; large 16" head conveyor; finger wheel/air cleaning system and semi-automatic box filler with Flex-end rear cross conveyor. Allan blueberry harvesters and mowers are designed for low maintenance, dependability and easy operator use.

Potato equipment has been Allan's specialty for decades and they are also very proud of their groundbreaking, fully electric, 3-Row Potato Harvester. It features an innovative electric drive system that offers advanced control of the harvester while delivering Allan's core values:

Simplicity of design; Ease of maintenance; Gentle crop handling; High capacity and Reliability.

Company spokesperson, Jeff Burgoyne, says their new product offerings have helped take Allan Equipment to the forefront of the potato and blueberry equipment industries.



All shined up and ready to head to the field is Allan's single head harvester. (Submitted)



Allan Equipment's 3 gang mower has proven to be very popular. (Submitted)



Allan Equipment is Canada's largest fabricator of potato harvesting equipment and also has an extensive line of equipment for wild blueberry producers. Above photo shows workers in the 60,000 sq. ft. facility building another piece of equipment. (Submitted)

## DBE Square Sprocket

### Manufacturing Square Sprockets Now Possible

By Maurice Rees

A sharp mind and lots of excess plastic injection molding capacity has resulted in Doug Bragg Enterprises now being able to manufacture square sprockets used on the blueberry harvesters the company is famous for. The company doesn't want to stop at square sprockets or their newly designed conveyor belting. They want to make their expertise and production capacity available to others in the region.

Plastics Manager, Steven Dormiedy, looked at the two injection molding machines

sitting on the floor and not used to anywhere their capacity, so he started looking around for additional products his shop could produce either for the main office or other customers. He focused on square sprockets and had the design team come up with a detailed design.

Then he ran into a problem. This time last year, he had a design and a product that was needed, but his shop could not produce it. One of the various types of plastic beads needed to provide the rigidity and durability of the finished product was not

available in Canada.

As he explained it took a lot of searching but finally while on a global search he found a source. Available only in large quantity, the beads were at least accessible. With several bags of beads at his disposal he set about making the square sprockets used to drive the belts on harvester conveyors. Soon it wasn't long before another product for the conveyor on a blueberry harvest was coming out of his automatic plastic injection molding machine.

With less production required for the blueberry industry, Dormiedy is searching throughout the region for other products needed for other equipment or in processing plants.



Last year Doug Bragg Enterprises was unable to purchase some of the plastic beads required to make a square sprocket. Now that they have sourced the beads, they are able to make the sprocket and other similar components. Looking on is Todd Burgess (front) and Alex Feix. (Rees Photo)



Steve Dormiedy, Plastics Manager, Doug Bragg Enterprises shows off some of the belting designed and manufactured at the Collingwood plant. The facility has two plastic injection machines, one of which is totally automated. Steve says the machine can produce enough belting for the Maritimes blueberry industry in about two months. (Rees Photo)

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