



February 4, 2009

Stick Tight Roller

I am writing you this letter because we know that our customers are constantly looking for a way to increase their half yield, and they are trying to do this in a way that produces an attractive half. It is apparent to us that a good portion of the damage to the half occurs between the cracker and the blower because that is when the nutmeat is in constant contact with the sharp edges of the shell.

The sheller is probably the most taxing machine for halves, which is why the paddle shaft speed on our sheller has always been adjustable. Reducing the paddle shaft speed mitigates half damage. However, if the half is already shelled out, why not send it directly to the sizer instead of passing it through the sheller?

Many people are unaware that we build a machine called a stick tight roller. It was originally designed to remove stick tights from the product flow so they could be further processed to reclaim the nutmeat. We have since adapted this machine for another role. Some use the stick tight roller as a pre-sheller. When used in this manner, the pecan halves and pieces can go directly to the next machine. Using a stick tight roller has a three fold-advantage:

- The halves that do not need to be shelled out are much less likely to be scarred or broken than if they pass through the sheller;
- The sharp pieces of shell that cause scarring do not make it into the sheller, which provides a better environment inside the sheller for the pecans that do need to be shelled;
- The capacity of one line can be increased by adding more Quantz crackers because the majority of the nuts will not pass through the sheller.

From what we have seen in shelling facilities that do not use stick tight rollers, there are three RX16 Quantz crackers per sheller. They use two crackers when cracking large nuts, and three crackers when cracking small nuts. Plants that use stick tight rollers and one blowing or aspirating stage before the stick tight roller are able to use five RX16 Quantz crackers on large nuts and eight on small nuts.

It may seem sensible to make a longer sheller that can accept the output from more crackers. We are capable and willing to provide you with a longer sheller if that is what you



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require. However, all of the pecans that don't need to be shelled out will be passed through the sheller thus diminishing product quality.

A new stick tight roller will cost around \$7,500 and may require increasing the height of an elevator. This simple inexpensive machine has been proven to provide two and a half times more cracking capacity for each cracking line while improving product quality. While the addition of a blowing or aspirating stage before the stick tight roller is recommended, it is not necessary to improve your half yield and improve your product's appearance.

If you have any questions about this or any other plant efficiency ideas, you are welcome to call us. As always, we appreciate your business, and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

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