



## PRESS RELEASE

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Cleaner forage and high speed? Today you can, thanks to *Ra Rake*, the innovative double-star hay raking machine

**Tests carried out by the University of Milan confirm the validity of the new patented windrower, thanks to which the manufacturer has obtained significant funding from the European Commission for Horizon 2020.**

*Pavia, Italy, May 14, 2018*

In times of increased attention to food quality, the harvesting of forage for animal breeding (in particular, dairy and beef cattle) is now a strategic activity for a well organized farm.

**Forage quality has a major impact on both the quality of production (milk and meat) and the income statement of the farm.** Indeed, if the forage is weighed down by soil and stones or contaminated with spores (in particular the dangerous *Clostridium*), the consequences on animal health, with additional costs for care and medicines, as well as their productivity, can be serious.

**Raking, an intermediate stage in the hay harvesting, is very important for obtaining clean, healthy and high-quality forage.** For over a century, Repossi Macchine Agricole has been designing and producing comb and rotor raking machinery. The latest addition to the range is the revolutionary RA-Rake, a double star rake, thanks to which in 2017 the company **obtained a prestigious Horizon 2020 grant**, devised by the European Union to promote and support innovation, research and technological development.

**The innovation, ingenious yet simple, allows farmers to take advantage of the benefits of star rakes** (which are fast and cheap), but without having to bear the negative consequences on the forage: according to research by the University of Minnesota, the star rake is in fact the one that - more than any other type of machinery - collects stones and earth. In fact, the single star, because it is mechanically driven by friction with the ground, moves the hay but at the same time pollutes it with a large amount of ashes.

The ingenious idea of Gabriele Reposi, inventor of the new machinery, **is to equip it with two stars of different diameters:** the larger one does not touch the forage, but has the only task of moving the second star, which is smaller and moves the forage without polluting it with stones and earth. Thanks to its simple structure, **the machine does not need complex and expensive mechanisms** to move the smaller star; thus it benefits from reduced costs (both for purchase and maintenance) and allows it to operate at high speed.

**The Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Milan**, in charge of validating the advantages obtainable from RA-Rake through scientific tests, has carried out preliminary tests on a rake prototype, which will be on sale starting in May 2019. **The field tests involved 3 types of rakes**, aimed at assessing the impact of the different variables (field situation, type of soil and machinery) on the quality of the forage obtained after the raking phase.

Well, all preliminary tests (which will be followed, according to the grant, by more detailed tests to be carried out in different parts of Europe) **confirm that the new double star technology determines a lower ash content (- 6.6%) if compared to the one found in the forage obtained with the rotary swath**, currently the most widely used.

These results are particularly encouraging, if we consider that the tests were carried out with a RA-Rake prototype that was assembled in only a few months, while the rotating rake is based on a technology that has been developed over decades of tests.

For further information, please contact Gabriele Reposi on 011 - 39 - 02-9056625.

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**Repossi Macchine Agricole - The company designs and manufactures agricultural machinery, in particular for haymaking (raking) and breeding. Founded in 1898 and now in its fourth generation, it looks to the future thanks to innovative and patented solutions, including the RA-Rake double star rake, which in 2017 received Horizon 2020 funding from the European Commission.**

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