
PRESS RELEASE

New field tests - validated by the University of Milan - for RA-Rake , the new double-wheel rake

A university thesis in Agricultural Sciences will study the effects on forage provided by the new windrower, thanks to which the manufacturer has obtained significant European funding (Horizon 2020).

Casorate Primo, 24th July 2018.

Cleaner forage for healthier cows: The impact of food quality on farm animal health and productivity is increasingly important. But combining quality requirements (expressed as low ash and high protein) of harvested hay with working speed can be a challenge.

Marco Signorelli, a university student about to graduate in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Milan, **will study the effects on forage of different methods of raking and will compare different machinery:** in particular, the new double-star rake and the traditional rotary windrower. Marco Signorelli will collaborate with the team of Professor Luca Rapetti of the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Production, Territory, Agro-energy of the University of Milan. As well as a college student, **Marco is also an agricultural entrepreneur;** in fact he manages a small company where forage and cereals are produced.

Marco participated in the new field tests and saw the rake in action: his "eye" - as both a farmer AND an expert - allows him to express a few preliminary observations.

"Obviously, we are waiting for official test results on the forage harvested after the raking with RaRake and with the traditional rotary machine" says Signorelli "but at first sight, the new machine is really fast, more than others on the market. In addition, perhaps because the forage is conveyed in a way that seems more delicate, the alfalfa appears more leafy. We'll see if the laboratory results confirm my impressions," continues the about-to-become-graduate farmer.

But what's the special feature of the new Ra Rake double-star windrower? The ingenious, yet simple, innovation provides the advantages of the star rake technology (speed) without the usual unfavourable consequences on the forage (dirt). The idea of Gabriele Reposi, inventor of the new machinery, was to equip it with **two stars of different diameters:** the larger one does not touch the forage, but has the only purpose of moving the second star, which is smaller and **moves the forage without polluting it with stones and earth.** Since the rake does not need complex and expensive mechanisms to move the smaller star, **it benefits from reduced costs (both for purchase and maintenance) and allows it to operate at high speed,** peculiarities of the star rakes.

"Speed" must be matched by "quality", as both these features are important in haymaking.

"The digestibility of alfalfa and in particular its protein and ash content is the subject of my degree thesis" says the future doctor in Agricultural Sciences. "At the moment, in my farm, we collect alfalfa at night or early in the morning, to take advantage of the humidity and preserve the leaf, that contains most of the protein; if - thanks to RaRake- it will really be possible to harvest forage also at different times of day, and still reducing the ashes, this will have a great impact on our work in terms of profitability and quality of harvest (and of our lives)".

Over the next few days, more tests will be performed with RaRake, in particular in Cortemaggiore, Caorso (CR) and Besate (MI) at the Cascina Marchesina; in addition, the machine will be tested at the alfalfa field of the Consorzio Agrario di Cremona.

We will soon update you on new results. *Stay tuned.*

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Reposi 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.