IDEA OF THE MONTH
FLOOR-MOUNTED AIR STATION LETS 
100 FEET OF HOSE REACH ANYWHERE.

A clear-span building provides no central area or center post to mount an air reel. So, when the Zacharias farm in Kathryn, North Dakota, put up its new shop with that open-floor plan, the airlines went in under the floor. Vice president of operations Vance Zacharias was ready with two floor-mounted air stations equipped with 100-foot Reelcraft air hose reels.

“They are removable, though, if we ever need to unfold a piece of equipment that would hit the posts. Each has a quick coupler under the floor for a quick disconnect,” he says.

The stands are positioned one on either side of the shop’s maintenance area. Since there is a swivel located between each air reel and its mount, an air hose can rotate 340° to also reach the truck parking area when a flat needs changed.

“If we did have poles to put the reels on, the hoses would only be easy to use in one direction,” he points out.

Zacharias had to plan the right height and figure out how to ensure the air hose “wouldn’t get pinched or caught on anything. My brother, Verlin, helped with the welding,” he says.

With a reel that swings 340°, the compressed air hose reaches easily in all directions, goes under and through equipment, and powers wrenches and other pneumatic tools. The floor mount is removable if extra space is required.

A Curtis rotary screw compressor, chosen for its quiet operation, supplies the air. “Since we have a heated floor, hot water pipes keep the airlines warm, so we haven’t had condensation,” he says.

In his research, Zacharias came across the Oetiker swing-coupling technology. He went with the Swiss-made tips for safety. “They have releases, so there’s no potential blow away during a hose disconnection,” he explains.

A $2,500 WINNER
Zacharias is the next recipient of a $2,500 Firestone in-store credit offer for having his idea chosen as the Idea of the Month. See page 84 to learn how to send in your idea.

VANCE ZACHARIAS
Family farm: Future Vision Partnership is a corn and soybean operation near Kathryn, North Dakota.

Responsibilities: Coordinating day-to-day operations and working with suppliers.

Favorite duty: “I love incorporating new technology and teaching the methods to others on our farm,” he says.

Degree: Zacharias majored in ag economics at North Dakota State University.

Hobbies: He enjoys Minnesota Twins, Timberwolves, and NDSU Bison games.

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