NEW ACR DRIVEN BY WI-FI

Daviesway has released a new Automatic Cup Remover (ACR), which is driven by wi-fi.

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Sales Manager Bruce Treble has been with Daviesway for 24 years, and is one of the company's anchors. Having always specialised in milking machinery, today Bruce also oversees all capital equipment price lists, quote programmes and technical information. He also oversees four of Daviesway's dairy service branches at Leongatha, Simpson and Koroit. No matter what project Daviesway is planning, Bruce is involved at some level.

The CR-1 has been jointly designed and developed with the Daviesway team using the best industry science, teamed with Australasian understanding.

Daviesway's Bruce Treble said his team deliberately set out to *"build a better mouse trap".*

"From our point of view, this offered us a product we could control," Bruce said. *"We knew we could then put the features and benefits into it that our customers wanted. And, that we would be the masters of our own destiny.*

Like many of its counterparts, the CR-1 is triggered by milk flow; however, it has some features that put it in a league of its own.

"Most ACRs have a central control unit, and you have to go to that point to calibrate them during milking – which can be quite difficult and inconvenient," Bruce said.

"The CR-1 is different in that it is done via a phone app. So, if you've got any device with wi-fi capability – whether it's a phone, tablet or computer – you can adjust all the parameters on the ACR while you're standing there looking at it."

PHONE APP CONVENIENCE

"The biggest advantage of this system is the programmability through the phone app and the versatility to drive other equipment, because you control how it interacts," Bruce said.

"Other systems can't do that. We can therefore be quite adaptable in the environments we put them in.

"We've had units working in Australia and New Zealand while we were in the development phase, and the prices will be competitive with similar models on the market."

AUTO START

The system also features the autostart function, so the operator doesn't have to hit a switch to activate the cluster.

"You can basically lift the cluster a little bit, and that movement triggers it to activate automatically," Bruce said.

"Or, you can have it partly automatic in rotaries where you have the cluster parking below the platform – because of the cow entry and exit. In this scenario, the cluster automatically lifts as the cluster in front of it is activated, so the operator can grab the next cluster, and put it on the cow.

"That auto-lift is a design we started doing 10 to 12 years ago, but it's taken off and is now an industry standard.

"We are always considering how the cluster operates in relation to the cows, in relation to the equipment around it, and in relation to the operator."

WIDER, VERSATILE CONTROL

The wi-fi capability also gives the unit the versatility to drive other equipment in the dairy, including:

- Controlling existing components
- In-built system diagnostics and alarm sensors
- Controlling pulsators
- Claw drop/claw lift functionality
- Cow retention
- Controls platform-mounted teat-spray system
- Sets the maximum milking time in automatic and manual modes
- Automatic milk-sweep function pushes the most milk as possible up the line
- Rather than having to tap the switch to activate the cluster unit, operators can simply lift the cluster to engage it
- LED in-switch shows unit status

CR-1 DAVIESWAY

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RETRO FITTING

"The other thing we've done is the control box itself can be retro-fitted on an existing system. So, if there are systems out there where the control box is failing or the circuit boards are getting old, but some of the hardware is okay – like the ram or the switching control – we can actually put the CR-1 control box over the top of them and give the system the new CR-1 functionality."

Differences that producers will immediately notice are no keypad, switches or electronics at the bail. Instead, there is simply an LED back-lit activation switch, showing the unit's status.

"So, it's very simply just a big waterproof bash-button and LED," Bruce said. *"The RAM is made from stainless steel and is easy to clean and maintain. And, it is a lot more durable than a PVC RAM. Another feature is that it can be fully stripped out for cleaning.*

"You can take the bottom and the top off, and you're basically left with a cylinder, which is incredibly easy to clean. It also offers great adaptability, in that it can be expanded. It can go in a rotary with retention bars and teat spray systems and it can drive pulsators – by adjusting the rate and ratio directly out of the unit itself.

"We've tried to make it as expandable as possible without putting too much into it."

The CR-1 control boxes can be retro-fitted on an existing system which may be aging, allowing for the addition of the new wi-fi functionality.

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