

SMALL PROCESSOR



Wood Beaver 18 BAB



Manufacturer
Multitek
North Americ LLC
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Machine Operator
Scott Eifler

Assistant
Bryndon O'Hara

Time
33 min. 23 sec.

Cords Processed
1.5 Cords

Cords/Hour
2.7 Cords

The Wood Beaver 18 BAB firewood processor took to the Shoot-Out in the same arena with processors that had more than four times the power of their 22-horse, 3-cylinder Kubota 902 diesel. It takes a lot of good engineering to make a good showing in a setting like this. Scott Eifler, Multitek V.P. of Sales and machine operator at the Shoot-Out, described some of the features. "For starters, we use regenerative hydraulics. This multiplies the flow of oil through the valve system, which speeds up cycle time. The return stroke is faster than most machines because we use a larger-diameter rod, so it takes less oil. Another speed enhancer is using only single-stage pumps that don't slow down on tough splits. Finally, the hydraulic pumps are in series, which, according to Scott, applies equal power to every part of the hydraulic system, even if other hydraulics are in use. Scott says that the processor is designed to allow the Kubota 902 to run in its "sweet spot" for smooth

power and fuel economy. "It runs at around [0].75 gallons per hour," he said.

"The biggest piece of the puzzle is how we build the machine," says Wood Beaver sales manager Bryndon O'Hara. "Through proper engineering, using laser-cutting and forming, the stress points are reinforced, but we only put steel where the machine needs it." Splitting is controlled by a manual lever. According to Bryndon, it gives the operator more control over the split, and once an operator becomes proficient, it is possible to cut and split at the same time. "It is also a safety feature," Scott added. "We want the operator to have a hand on the lever any time the splitter is moving."

As far as the Shoot-Out went, Scott says that this was the best year yet, in terms of quality of the logs provided. The engine never gave as much as a hiccup, and the 22-ton ram split each piece and returned, ready for the next one to fall into the splitting trough in just 4 seconds. There was just one minor glitch when the



outfeed conveyor slipped. “We should have tensioned it before the Shoot-Out,” Scott admitted. In a few minutes, he and Bryndon had everything back on track, and the 12-foot conveyor was dumping the wood in a neat pile as fast as Scott and Bryndon could cut and split it. The machine performed right in the middle of the 2 to 3 cords per hour that Wood Beaver claims for this machine. He says he knew that the Wood

Beaver 18 BAB would not be the fastest machine in the Shoot-Out. “The thing I want to stress is that it was everything we said the machine would do,” he said. “For around \$30,000, we provide a good solid firewood processor that will give years of service.” Most of his customers are tree services and firewood providers that process between 500 and 1,000 cords per year. ●



MACHINE SPECS

- Model 18 BAB
- Power 22-hp Kubota turbo diesel
- Cutoff 24-in. bar chain saw, 0.404 gauge
- Cycle time 3.5 sec.
- Log loading Log lift, dead deck, live deck
- Max diameter 19 in.
- Options used Live deck, Kubota diesel

THE BADDEST WOOD SPLITTER ON THE MARKET

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