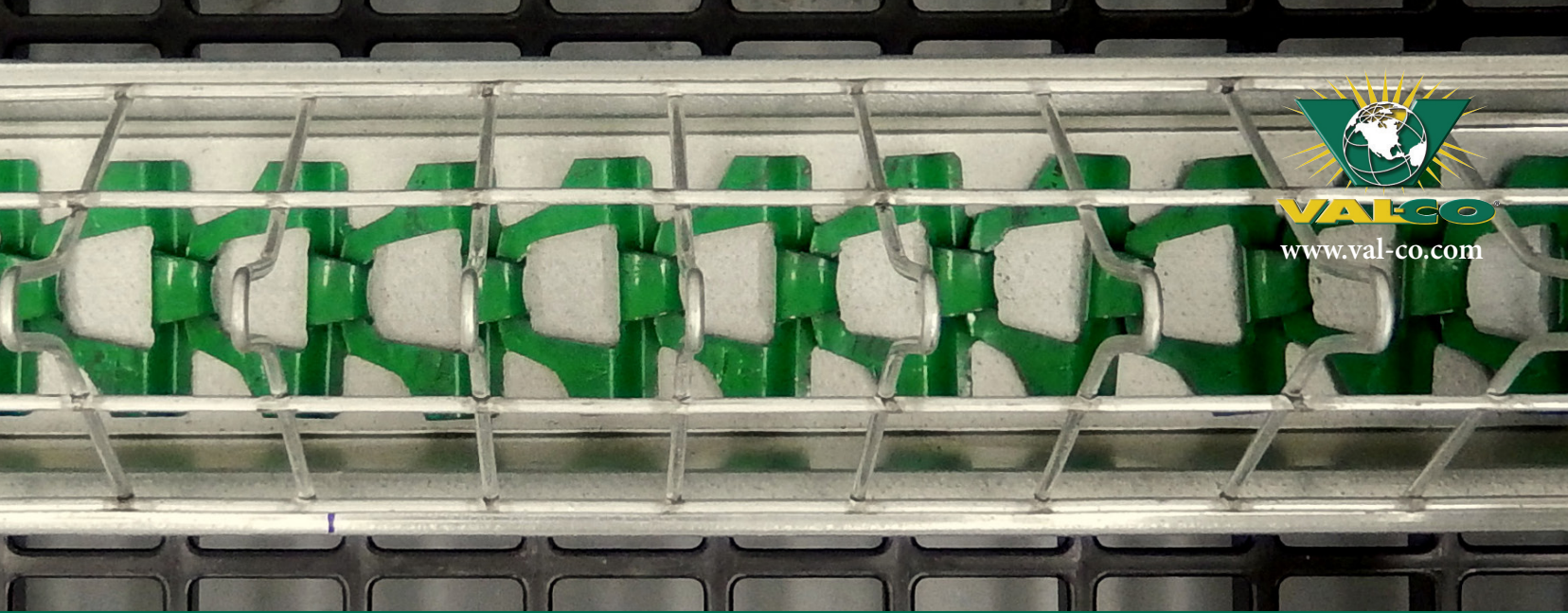


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Equipment Care
Flat Chain Feeders

Preventative maintenance will keep flat chain feeders working properly all year round.

Some things to keep in mind when caring for feeders:

- Disconnect electricity before servicing equipment.
- Always maintain level lines. Unlevel lines will increase wear and tear on equipment.
- If the system is new, check chain tension daily for the first three weeks while it's broken in, visually check the lines weekly for caterpillaring.
- If a shear pin breaks: 1. Something is jammed in the line, or 2. The gap between the power shoe and drive wheel is too large.

To clean the feed lines:

- ☐ Remove the clean-out covers located behind the hopper at the bottom of the trough.
- ☐ Run the feed line to allow feed and debris to fall out.
- ☐ Blow out corners, hoppers, and drives of any remaining debris.
- ☐ After the house has been pressure washed, add a small amount of vegetable oil to the length of the trough to prevent damage to the line.

We recommend following a maintenance schedule to improve flat chain performance and longevity.

Daily:

- ☐ Check feed supply in bulk bins. Clean up any spills.
- ☐ Check that the fill system and the feeders are set to run simultaneously.
- ☐ Check all necessary feed drops are open.
- ☐ Check the hopper switch is in the proper location in the hopper.
- ☐ Check the drop tube is aligned properly with the hopper switch.

Weekly:

- ☐ Check the feed line tension. Remove links and reconnect chain to tighten, if needed.
- ☐ Check trough levelness. Adjust drop lines to maintain level lines.

Monthly:

- ☐ Lubricate corners with SAE 80W oil. For cage operations, use 10W oil.
- ☐ Check power shoe/drive wheel gap. Flip or replace the power shoe, if needed.

Quarterly:

- ☐ Inspect drive hopper unit V-belts for wear.
- ☐ Replace worn belts.

Semi-annually:

- ☐ Check gearbox oil. Fill with 80W-90 gear oil.

Yearly:

- ☐ Change oil in gearbox - fill with 3/4 quart 80W-90 gear oil.

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