



Hollandia Produce



When it comes to growing lettuce, nobody does it more uniquely and efficiently than Hollandia Produce. So when Hollandia needed a durable conveyor to quickly and efficiently move lettuce on its packaging line, it came as no surprise when it chose a Dorner AquaPruf 7400 Series Sanitary Conveyor.

For years the California-based nursery has made a name for itself by growing lettuce and other produce above ground through a process called hydroponic growing. Instead of nutrients in the soil, plants grown hydroponically thrive on a

nutrient water solution that contains all the minerals the plants need.

The entire process, from a single seed to the packaging line, takes less than three months for Hollandia to grow a head of lettuce. At the time of harvest, employees remove lettuce from the growing troughs and pick away leaves from the head that are discolored—it's at this point in the process that the 7400 Series proves its worth.

Hollandia Produce is a very tough and demanding application for the 7400 Series because of the tremendous amount of debris it collects from discarded leaves being carried away for disposal. Of course the amount of debris from one leaf is minimal, but since Hollandia produces several hundred thousand pounds of lettuce each year, that amount does add up quickly on the conveyor. So the conveyor system needed to be durable for continuous use, yet designed for daily wash downs—just the kind of nonstop applications the 7400 Series was engineered for.

"The conveyor never quits," said Ton DeBruyn, purchasing manager for Hollandia Produce. "We run it non-stop, every day for eight to nine hours. It has worked out very well for us."

Hollandia uses an 18-inch wide, 15-foot long cleated 7400 Series conveyor that's positioned at a 45-degree angle. Discarded lettuce falls onto a conveyor, which moves it onto the cleated 7400 Series conveyor. Lettuce is then transported up an incline where it is dumped into a trash bin.

Durability

DeBruyn said reliability is an important factor he looks for in a conveyor system. The AquaPruf 7400 Series is ideal for Hollandia and other food applications because of its sanitary design. It's built with a durable, stainless steel frame with no flat surfaces to eliminate collection points of loose food scraps. Continuous TIG welding of the 304 stainless steel frame provides strength and eliminates fasteners in the food zone, which provides a more sanitary environment. Bearings are 400 series stainless steel and filled with H1 FDA lubricant, making them one of the highest quality bearings for stainless steel sanitary conveyors.

Ease of Cleaning

DeBruyn said the 7400 Series is washed down every day. In fact the 7400 Series is engineered for multiple daily cleanings with a variety of options to speed up the cleaning process.

Ease of Disassembly

The 7400 Series can be completely disassembled without tools by just one operator in as little as three minutes. The less time employees need to spend cleaning the conveyor is more time they can give to other projects.



"It's been a really great conveyor for us," DeBruyn said. "If our applications call for additional conveyors we'll definitely consider going with another Dorner."

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