

VERMEER BC1800XL AT WOODLEIGH FARMS

FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY, SUPPORTING LANDOWNERS, AND CULTIVATING ECOSYSTEM HEALTH: VERMEER BC1800XL AT WOODLEIGH FARMS

Provided by Vermeer Canada

In January 2024, Woodleigh Farms embarked on a transformative journey towards sustainability by introducing a new division dedicated to managing unwanted forest biomass materials – otherwise known as **Catching Carbon**. Central to this endeavor was the utilization of the Vermeer BC1800 Brush Chipper, a key component in their efforts to convert plantation thinning, storm debris, and forest remediation waste into compost for organic soil enrichment on the farm.

Leading the charge at Woodleigh Farms is Norm Lamothe and his lead hand Sean Toner who has been instrumental in overseeing the integration of the Vermeer BC1800 into their operations. Toner notes that the BC1800 has proven to be an ideal fit for their needs, particularly in processing whole trees with diameters of up to 18 inches, and at times handling two smaller trees simultaneously. "We chose the Vermeer chipper due to its simplistic design, great build quality, and the user interface is awesome, especially for a mechanic like myself," Toner explains. "You can basically figure out any problems with the machine and get it back up and running with minimal downtime, and the vertical feed drums are superior to the horizontal style." Another standout feature of the Vermeer BC1800 that also resonated with Toner is the SmartFeed system, which enhances operational efficiency by automating the chipping process.

This patented innovation allows Toner to remain in the seat of his excavator while feeding the butt of the tree against the roller for processing. Toner also notes the importance of the variable speed feature, stating, "Having the variable speed is huge; it allows us to have some control over the chip size, which is important for us. We can slow it down and get very nice, uniform chips, or we can speed it up and process a lot of material in a short period of time." If the sensor detects any feed roller jams, it will shift material back and forth, reducing the need for manual control. The seamless operation of the BC1800 has not only improved workflow but has also made a notable contribution to Woodleigh Farms' productivity, with an average of 35 trees being chipped per hour.

The success of the Vermeer BC1800 at Woodleigh Farms has helped advance sustainability efforts and allowed them to extend support to other landowners in the region. By offering their services to neighboring farms, Woodleigh Farms is helping to manage forest biomass materials effectively and sustainably, contributing to the health of their local ecosystem. This collaborative approach not only benefits the environment but also strengthens community bonds among landowners with shared objectives.

Using the Vermeer BC1800 provides environmental benefits that extend well beyond Woodleigh Farms' immediate

operations. By repurposing forest biomass that would otherwise decompose and release carbon dioxide, Woodleigh Farms mitigates greenhouse gas emissions. The conversion of this biomass into compost not only enriches the soil but also sequesters carbon, playing a crucial role in climate change mitigation. The process of composting helps capture and store carbon in the soil, improving soil health and fertility while reducing atmospheric carbon levels. This approach aligns with broader environmental goals of reducing carbon footprints.

The integration of the Vermeer BC1800 at Woodleigh Farms serves as a testament to the positive impact that sustainable practices and innovative technologies can have on communities, landowners, and ecosystem health - an impact we're proud to be associated with.

At Vermeer Canada, we are committed to educating on the value of the industry which goes beyond selling equipment. Our own community has a deep-seated belief in the importance of knowledge sharing and fostering a deeper understanding of how equipment, parts and services can support businesses, people, and the communities we serve.

"Our commitment to our partnerships and customers is to support them in making informed decisions, optimizing their operations, boosting productivity, and reducing downtime." - Craig Drury, VP Operations. 





BC1800XL - Catching Carbon with Woodleigh Farms

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Norm Lamothe and Sean Toner (Woodleigh Farms) with Brad Young (Vermeer Canada).



Craig Drury, VP Operations (Vermeer Canada), Huronia Chapter President.

