

# PALLET HANDLER SAVES TIME, MONEY AND BACK STRAIN



*Supplier of nutritional supplements for livestock puts a high value on its business as well as the health and well-being of its workers.*

By Lorie King Rogers, Associate Editor

**N**ovus Arkansas in Little Rock prepares nutritional supplements for livestock feeds, which are packaged in 55-pound bags and stacked 40 bags to a pallet. But if a bag near the bottom of a pallet gets ripped, it can cause a ton of trouble. Workers then have to lift and transfer more than 2,000 pounds of product by hand from that pallet to another and replace the damaged bag.

Not anymore. To reduce time, expense and potential worker injury associated with this restacking procedure, Novus purchased a pallet rotator/inverter (Southworth, [www.southworthproducts.com](http://www.southworthproducts.com)). The equipment rotates a fully loaded pallet 180 degrees in about 1 minute. Now, employees can place a loaded pallet in the rotator/inverter, turn it over, replace damaged bags, and rotate the load back to its original position—all with the push of a button.

“The new inverter is significantly reducing the potential safety hazard and liability of back strain,”

says plant manager John Farmer. “There is really no way to maintain good posture when you’re twisting and turning over and over again with a 55-pound bag in your hands every time.”

The pallet rotator/inverter can also help replace broken pallets, switch to or from in-house/shipping pallets and transfer loads to slip sheets. With a standard capacity of 4,400 pounds, the equipment can handle loads up to 48 x 48 x 60 inches. The clamping mechanism features user-adjustable pressure control to assure lighter loads won’t be crushed. Loads rotate a full 180 degrees on a large anti-friction turret bearing and can be stopped at any point during rotation. And, a safety rail protects the operator.

“There are weeks when we don’t need to use the inverter,” says Farmer, “but it’s kind of like the fire department—it’s good to know it’s there when you need it.” □