



HARRIS AMERICAN'S 'CADILLAC' DRIVING GAINS AT ILLINOIS YARD

The company's BSH stationary shear has been a true difference maker while processing ferrous metal at Hitchcock Scrap Yard Inc.

For the past year, Mike Hitchcock Sr. says he's been running the Cadillac of shears.

In mid-2025, he added a Harris American Co. BSH-30-1233B-4 stationary shear to his 30-acre yard, Hitchcock Scrap Yard Inc. (HSY) in Canton, Illinois, and the machine immediately contributed to gains in productivity and flexibility to handle more material.

After the company outgrew its previous shear, the Harris American model has allowed it to process 16–18 loads per day of ferrous material such as skeleton plate and busheling, and do so 4–5 days per week rather than the seven days per week needed for the old machine.

Additionally, the shear's ability to efficiently size material like plate and busheling means HSY no longer has to bale it.

Hitchcock notes that there's still "room to grow," with the shear allowing his yard to take on bigger jobs from industrial clients that could include as much as 50,000 tons of material sourced from demolition work. HSY accepts material from a variety of sources, including farm and industrial scrap as well as metal sized for foundries and steel mills.

"We could easily shove [50,000 tons] through this machine in short order," he says.

Hitchcock says that after extensive research, he chose Harris American because

he was in search of the "heaviest-made machine there was." In particular, he points to the thickness of the shear's 12-foot-wide, 30-foot-long feed box, which already has allowed his yard to process 30,000 tons of oversized plate steel from the demolition of a power plant.

"This is the only machine we found out there that we thought would handle pieces that size," he says. "The squeeze box on this machine is just unreal. Nobody else has got anything like it."

Along with the BSH shear's ability to quickly fold up metal, Hitchcock says uptime and ease of maintenance have made a big difference. Notably, blade life has doubled compared to HSY's previous shear, and replacing them is an easier process.

In fact, he says, "Everything [Harris American] has done, the wear plates inside the squeeze box, the blade guides, everything's replaceable, so there's very little welding that you have to do."

HSY has been in business since 1971 and Harris American has helped the company grow. In addition to the new shear, the yard has used a Harris American baler for nonferrous material for the past five years.

The Cordele, Georgia-based equipment manufacturer's focused customer service has remained an important consideration in



Hitchcock's decision-making process. The new shear came with extra wear parts and the ability to receive service electronically. Help also is a phone call away.

"Anytime we've needed something, we get somebody to answer the phone," says Hitchcock. "That's a big deal. They answer the phone and whatever we need is shipped out the next day."

And the BSH shear has rapidly made its presence felt.

"The weight and size of the machine itself, the production [stands out]," Hitchcock says. "When it says it'll do two loads an hour, three loads an hour, that's what it does. [Harris American] doesn't fabricate anything. Everything that's on their sheet is exactly what it does. Actually, maybe it does more. I'd say it's the heaviest machine out there."

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