

KRB North America
1058 Cool Creek Road
Wrightsville, PA 17368
Phone: 717-252-3667
Fax: 717-252-9247
info@krbmachinery.com

KRB Arm-Tec
Lundsmarken 1
DK-5792 Aarslev, Denmark
p: 45 7026 9091
f: 45 7026 9092
info@krbmachinery.com



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REBAR INDUSTRY NEWS



Upcoming Events

08.20-21.08

15th Annual KRB Open House

Join us for a plant tour. Meet the people who design and build the strongest machines on the Market. Enjoy lunch, golf, dinner, refreshments, prizes and awards. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.krbmachinery.com/open_house.html

11.23-27.08

KRB at Big 5

Join us at the one of the biggest concrete construction exhibits in the Middle East. The Big 5 will be held in Dubai, UAE at the Dubai International Exhibition Center. We hope to see you there!

Ray Kauffman (continued)

"My wife Kathy and I were fortunate enough to meet Willie and his wife at the opening of a pool hall in East York some years ago. We had dinner with them and got to know each other a bit, and even got to take some pictures with him. After dinner, he and I shot a game of 9 ball," Kauffman recalls.

"I got the break, and I had run the table with only the 9 ball left. It was a tricky cut shot along the rail. I lined it up and took the shot, but cut it too close and the ball trickled just short of the pocket!" Kauffman laughs.

"Then Willie smiled and said to me 'I can always count on my good friend Ray' as he sank the last ball for the win."

Our customers have come to count on Ray too. By providing honest, strait-forward advice and adding a smile to our customer's faces, even when they are not in a smiling mood, Ray typifies the service that KRB customers have come to expect from us. Ray says "I really do make it my mission to help our customers with anything I can. I enjoy it."

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Ray Kauffman has provided his service excellence since 1986

Ray has been with KRB almost from day one. The care he takes in helping customers is evident when you speak to people like Ray Prince, from Lonestar Building Supply in Texas. "If Ray tells me something, I go to bed at night not worrying about it. I know it will be taken care of," says Prince. "I can take a cell phone out to the floor or send Ray a picture and he can step me through any problem I have. He's a strait shooter and very responsive."

Lonestar Building Supply has a shop full of KRB equipment and plans to buy more based on the quality machinery and the excellent customer service he receives from Ray and the entire staff at KRB. "Everyone there is very friendly and helpful and that means alot," Prince adds.

Ray strives to achieve excellence as a Service Engineer. He also strives for excellence on a pool table as well. Ray's fondest memories outside of work, besides the marriage to his wife Kathy, or the birth of his two children Michael and Raeanne, had to be meeting pool legend Willie Mosconi.

continued on back



CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT



Outside Yard houses stock. Entry table saves operators from lifting bars.



Stock is conveyed indoors to shear and sent to automatic and manual bending downstream.



Shockey Precast Group improves its cutting and bending operations

Jeff Everett, of the Shockey Precast Group in Winchester VA, is convinced that KRB has improved the cutting and bending operations at his company. While forming their Process Improvement Committee, Shockey Precast consulted Bob Dellinger at KRB.

"Bob was extremely knowledgeable," notes Everett. "He saw our operation and was able to suggest several improvements to our process. We started with a KRB shearline and we immediately saw reduction in man hours in a few days."

"KRB also suggested an automatic bender to relieve our table benders," recalls Everett. "Now our cutting and bending operation is no longer the bottle neck in our shop. We reduced the number of man hours by 150% and eliminated our night shift entirely. Installing the KRB shearline and automatic bender has enabled us to increase safety, productivity, and morale in the steel shop. We've had the same crew working in that department for over a year now."

Jeff also adds "We had figured a conservative two-year payback on the equipment purchase, but we should even beat that expectation."



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United States

Container shortage crimps exporters' plans

By TIMOTHY AEPPEL The Wall Street Journal

Many U.S. companies hoping to profit from surging exports created by the weak dollar are facing an unexpected hurdle: There aren't enough of the metal shipping containers that help form the backbone of the global economy.

The shortage is threatening to limit the benefits U.S. producers can reap from one of the few bright spots in an otherwise troubled economy. While housing and financial markets have slumped, many companies have seen a rise in their export business, helping offset the domestic slump and lessening what would have already been a far more painful downturn.

Shipping companies typically scoured the country for anyone willing to fill outgoing boxes. But with the slump in the value of the dollar making U.S. goods more attractive to foreign buyers and many overseas economies continuing to hum, the tide has shifted in recent months.

What has happened now has thrown a wrench into the works. Cutbacks by U.S. consumers have slowed the growth of imports, while the weak dollar is making the U.S. into an export machine. Meanwhile, the places where most of these exports are originating are far from where boxes are being unpacked and soaring energy costs make it too costly to just load them on trucks and move them around. This has meant lost orders, delays, or a scramble for alternatives, such as costlier air freight. Analysts say that barring a global slowdown that put the brakes on U.S. exports, the problem will dog exporters at least through the end of next year.



World steel production to rise by 5.6 percent this year

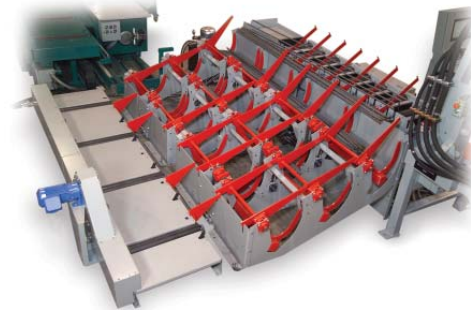
JAMI MILNES, MEPS:

MEPS forecasts crude steel production in 2008 at 1420 million tons - 5.6 percent up on the outturn in the previous twelve month period. This rate of growth is below the year earlier figure of 7.6 percent, due in part to the weaker

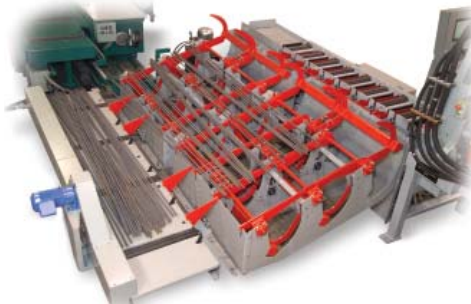
global economic climate and an anticipated reduction in the rate of steel output expansion in China.

Blastfurnace iron making is still expected to exceed one billion tons this year, rising broadly in line with crude steel output. Direct reduced iron manufacturing is predicted to climb to near 70 million tons in 2008. The popularity of this process is growing, particularly in South America, Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Global steel output in 2007 reached another all time high. Record levels of production were recorded in half the 98 countries investigated. The main drivers for this are very strong demand and rising capacity for steel manufacturing in Turkey. High levels of investment will continue over the period to 2012. Much of the growth in output is still related to the construction sector.



This flexible system eliminates the need to bend the bars in the sequence in which they were cut.



The EvacuBin Evacuating Pockets

KRB is innovating rebar handling systems. The EvacuBin allows bundles to be accumulated from a shearline prior to discharging them onto a runout conveyor or bending line. Each bin pocket can be dumped independently of another, allowing bundles to be accumulated, optimized, and evacuated at the operator's command. This flexible system eliminates the need to bend the bars in the sequence in which they were cut.

Attached to the EvacuBin is an auxiliary runout conveyor that lifts the bundles to be conveyed back to the appropriate transfer height. This LiftRoll Conveyor allows the shearline and pockets to work from floor height without the need to raise the shear and add costly work platforms. Downstream operations can be fed directly by the LiftRoll run out conveyor.

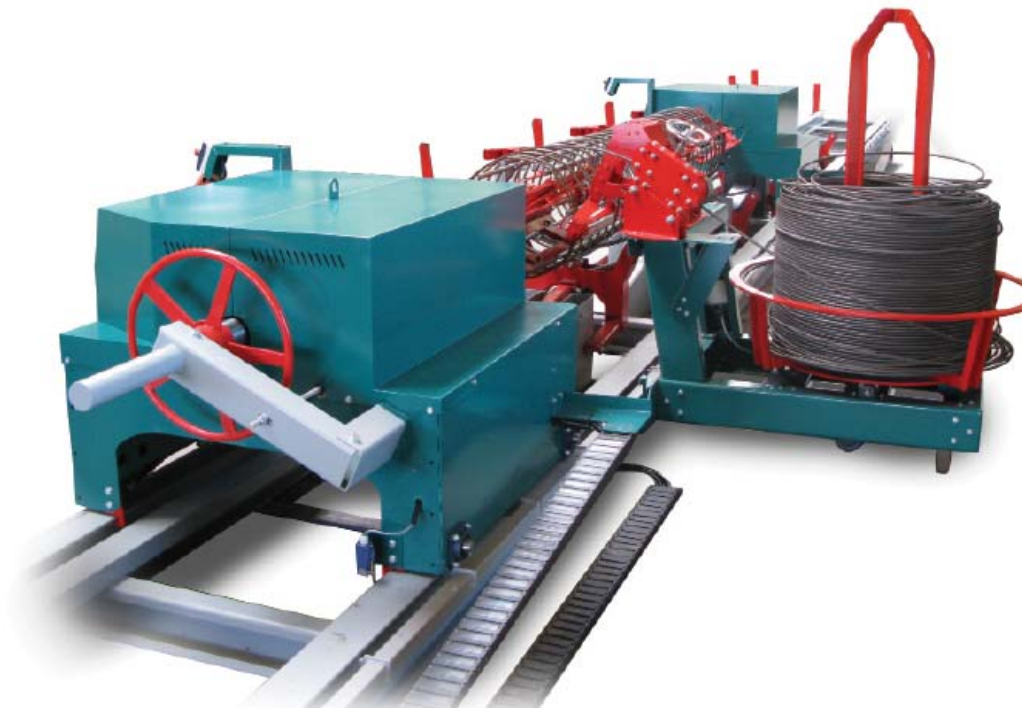
The MiniForm 612

KRB has retooled its entire line of Automatic Stirrup Benders. The MiniForm 612 has been designed to achieve very high speeds while maintaining accurate production. This machine is driven by servo motors on all rotational axis and pneumatic cylinders handle the linear axis. The straightening system is controlled utilizing a mechanical memory system with four separate size settings. The straightening rolls can be preset, recalled and changed quickly and easily allowing changeover time to be minimized and maximize production time.

KRB Coil cradles are supplied for processing coiled stock. Eliminating small diameter bars from conventional shearlines and table benders greatly increases the overall production of your shop.



The MiniForm 612 is designed to achieve high speeds while maintaining accurate production.



The CageForm 1000

With decades of experience of designing, manufacturing, selling and servicing equipment for the rebar fabricating industry, KRB now offers a line of cage machines. The KRB CageForm machines offer flexible solutions that can handle small and large diameter cages in a variety of bar sizes, saving valuable setup time.

The CageForm 1000 is built for smaller cage and pile applications. The CageForm 1000 has an innovative spindle arm for manual welding or tying in non-welded applications. Bands or rebar spirals are created to the desired cage diameter. The spindle arm securely holds and spins the cage in place as the long bars and rings are placed. The coil then traverses and wraps the length. By adding additional welding operators, throughput can be 2-3 times more than extruding type machines.