# **BEAM CLAY® INFIELDS!**



Beam Clay® has supplied products to every Major League Baseball Team and over 150 Minor League Teams, more than 700 colleges and thousands of towns and schools from all 50 states and worldwide. Beam Clay® supplies special mixes for infields, pitcher's mounds, home plate areas, red warning tracks, infield conditioners, drying agents, plus over 200 other infield products, including regional infield mixes blended for every state and mate from bulk plants nationwide!

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#### **CHECK THE REEL FIRST**

Before doing any grinding, Sides advises that you thoroughly clean the reel and cylinder. Next, always check to make sure the reel and roller bearings are good and reel has proper end play.

"It's virtually impossible to get a good, consistent grind if there are worn bearings," he said. "Save yourself the headache and check these before wasting time at the grinder."

You should also look for a "coned" reel by using a pi-tape or other measuring device to check circumference. An uneven reel can affect cut quality as well as lead to contact with the bed knife. If you find a coned reel, Sides recommends following the directions for your specific grinding equipment to get the reel back to true.

## **MAINTAIN PROPER** CLEARANCE

"Easily the most overlooked, but key component of reel maintenance is to make sure bedknife clearances are maintained," Sides said. A couple of minutes spent ensuring the reel blades are not coming into contact with the bedknife can save hours of grinding time down the road.

"We definitely promote daily clearance checks," Sides said. "As a rule, you want between one-thousandth to twothousandths clearance between the bed knife and reel blades. Avoid metalto-metal contact, as that quickly wears down a reel." Pulling a reel, mounting it in the grinder and replacing the unit can take up to an hour per reel. Daily clearance checks take just a few minutes and can help extend reel life and save shop time by extending the duration between spin grinds.

## **DON'T OVERLOOK** THE RELIEF ANGLE

When you do have to grind, Sides says, don't overlook the relief angle. "There are two distinct schools of thought on grinding," he said. "Those that spin grind only and those that relief grind in addition to spin grinding. I recommend everyone maintain the relief angle throughout the life of the reel."

The relief is key to keeping the reels and the tractor working the most effi-