

FACE CHANGE



Occasionally, a quarry will change the type of loading equipment used to handle the blasted rock at the face for improving cost effectiveness and production efficiency. Such were the circumstances at the Carver Stone Products quarry, located in Middleburg, New York.

The quarry is a part of Carver Sand & Gravel LLC, and is one of the company's three quarries and four sand and gravel pit facilities that serve a 3,600-square-mile area in eastern New York. The various Carver companies are involved in construction, sand and gravel, crushed stone, bituminous blacktop, and portable crushing/screening.

Until recently, the tool of choice at the Carver Stone Products quarry had been a hydraulic excavator. A main reason for using the excavator was to sort the over-size rocks from the rest of the fragmented rock.

FACE OFF

While the excavator's production capacities were sufficient in sorting the rock sizes and loading the trucks, the process was problematic because the large rocks had to be piled within the limited dumping reach of the excavator's bucket. It also took eight to nine passes to load the quarry's 50-ton trucks.

Enter their newly purchased Kawasaki 115ZV-2 wheel loader. It only takes four passes, thanks to its much larger heaped bucket capacity of 8.3 cubic yards.

However, despite the Carver companies collectively owning 15 Kawasaki wheel loaders, choosing the new Kawasaki 115ZV-2 was not etched in stone. It was done after serious evaluations were made by a Carver team led by Carver Laraway, President.

Laraway bought his first Kawasaki loader when he started the construction company, so he has a lot of experience with the

brand. "I have found the Kawasaki wheel loaders to be very good performers and the services from both Kawasaki and the dealer, Contractor Sales in Albany, have been outstanding. However, there is one other important issue when we buy new equipment. I want the people who operate the equipment also to give their blessings. After all, an operator lives in a wheel loader eight to 10 hours a day. I believe, if I buy the equipment the operator wants, providing it is good quality, he will perform better with it, and that means greater productivity. An operator's attitude towards his machine is very important. Most of our operators prefer the Kawasaki brand of loaders and that is a main reason why our companies own so many of them."

Three brands of loaders were tested at the quarry. After the operator, Joe Stanton, operated all three, his first choice was the Kawasaki 115ZV-2. That settled it.

WHEEL LOADER ADVANTAGE

According to Blake Sowards, quarry superintendent, one advantage of the new wheel loader is it speeds loading times by at least 10 to 15 percent. Another advantage is the loader can keep the quarry floor clean of stray rock pieces, which can cause tire problems.

Another plus is the excavator is now freed to strip overburden while the quarry is open, rather than during the freezing winter months when it is closed. "We will do the stripping during the milder weather months when it is far more efficient to operate. It will considerably reduce our costs for stripping."



At Carver Stone Products, 12 calcitic limestone products are produced, including some NYDOT-specified crushed-stone sizes. Additionally, it supplies farmers with spreadable fine-mesh limestone for raising the pH in soils used for growing agronomic crops.



Combined, the Carver companies employ 150 people, with the 30 involved in the production of sand, gravel, and crushed stone. Twelve people are employed at the Carver Stone Products quarry. The quarry produces one million tons of rock products annually.

The Kawasaki wheel loader also is very efficient in separating the oversize rock pieces from the rock pile. Thanks to the new customizable settings on many of the ZV-2 loader controls, the operator can efficiently load 5,000 to 5,500 tons of rock a day, and separate the over-size rock from the rock pile, one hour faster than the excavator.

OTHER USES

Besides the new 115ZV-2, other Kawasaki loaders zip around the quarry. An older Kawasaki 95ZIV transports aggregates to the company's hot mix asphalt plant holding bins. A year-old Kawasaki 95ZV, fitted with a material bucket, loads stacked products

on delivery trucks. Currently, it has more than 2,000 machine hours. The four-year old 95ZV loader it replaced was transferred to another Carver quarry for loading material. It has more than 8,000 hours on it, and is still operated daily. According to Gary Seemann, Equipment Applications Manager, it has been reliable 98 percent of the time, despite the number of hours. Only minor problems have been encountered so far.

Laraway is confident the equipment change being made at the face will make a significant improvement in loading efficiency and a lower cost-per-ton of rock loaded. Essentially, the new wheel loader will handle one

million tons of rock each year, and he says the Kawasaki 115ZV-2 is the ideal machine to do the job.

Carver Sand & Gravel, LLC is serviced by Contractor Sales Company, Inc., Albany, New York.

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The wheel loader's bucket is a Kawasaki Rock-V-Edge bucket with mounted teeth and a bolt-on segment edge. This bucket was chosen because of its ruggedness and design for digging in blasted rock.

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– Carver Laraway, President

