

Latest New Products & Ideas From Europe



Powered Weed Wiper

Wick wipers have been around for years but a British company says it added a new twist by building a powered unit that aggressively wipes chemicals on weeds.

The "Rotowiper" uses a special roller with a carpet-like covering that's chain-driven by an electric motor. It's fitted with a 12-gal. tank.

Rotating the roller prevents dripping

and does a better job wiping chemical on weeds. The low positioning of the roller applies chemicals to the undersides of leaves.

Available in widths from 6 ft. to 13 ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rotowiper UK Ltd., 8 Atholl Crescent, Perth PH1 5NG Scotland (ph & fax 17 38 63 63 71).

Deere Shows Off Independently-Suspended Front Axle

Deere exhibited a new 6010 tractor with several new features, including an independently-suspended front axle that's unlike anything on the market.

Two hydraulic cylinders, mounted vertically, suspend the axle from the front main frame. An axially-mounted arm connects the axle to the central casting close to the differential housing. It transfers the pulling and pushing forces from the front axle to the center of the tractor. Two accumulators provide a damping effect that smooths out operation. The axle can move as much as 2 in. up or down.

The axle's preset suspension is corrected automatically by an electronic level control. As the load changes, it automatically centers the travel of the suspension, making for a smooth ride and reducing



wear and tear on the tractor. The company says it's especially useful when doing fast field work like mowing and cultivating where handling and maneuverability are important. What's more, traction is improved because there's less bounce of the front wheels.

The new suspended front axle option costs about \$3,500.

Agco Continues European Buying Spree

Agco made big news at the Agritechnica as it continued its buying spree of European farm equipment companies.

Robert Ratliff, Agco CEO, even made an appearance, explaining to the press and showgoers what the company's purchase of German tractor manufacturer Fendt and Danish combine manufacturer Dronningborg means.

Fendt has been known for years as an innovative manufacturer of high-quality tractors that sell for around 20 percent more than MF, Deere and Case-IH tractors. It has succeeded with unusual tractors that no one else makes. For instance, it makes one model with an innovative front implement carrier with the engine under the cab. Ratliff says that under Agco's direction, Fendt might come out with its first combine ever. And he confirmed that Fendt tractors would be launched in North America for the first time in 1998 through a limited number of dealers. "We aim to find the best 200 dealers in the U.S. to sell Fendt," Ratliff told the German magazine Profi. "This is an exclusive product and we want the best dealers. The new dealers do not have to be our dealers already; they could, for example, be John Deere dealers."

As for their other recent purchase, the Danish company Dronningborg has been



Photo courtesy Profi Magazine

Robert Ratliff, Agco CEO, explains the company's recent purchases to magazine editors at the recent Agritechnica show.

building combines for Agco's Massey Ferguson division for years and Agco already owned 32 percent of the company. Dronningborg makes one of the most innovative combines in the world. In the 1980's, it became the first manufacturer to incorporate complex computer systems into its combines to monitor cleaning, maintenance and other systems. And it was the first to offer on-board GPS.

No word on whether Agco will increase the presence of the Dronningborg-built Massey Ferguson combines in North America. Ratliff did state, however, that it would not make sense to introduce U.S.-built Gleaner combines into Europe.

"Shock-Proof" Front-End Loaders

The Swedish manufacturer of Quicke front-end loaders says the new hydraulic accumulators on its front end loaders greatly reduce wear and tear to loaders and make loader work a lot easier on the operator.

Hydraulic accumulators plum into the double-acting cylinders on the side of the loader. The new system is available on two of the company's loaders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alo-Maskiner Ab, Brannland 300, S-90137 Umea, Sweden (ph 46 9017 0500; fax 46 9017 0599).



Double Tine System For Tedders

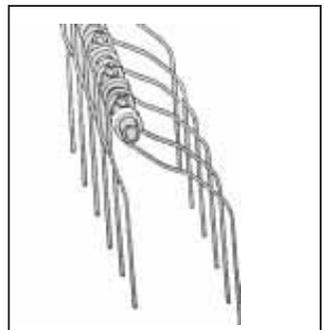
A manufacturer of hay-making machinery says its new double tine system for tedders does twice as good a job as other machines.

The leading tine does the bulk of the work while the second, slightly longer tine picks up any crop material that slips through.

"Lets you work faster and do a better job," says Niemeyer Gmbh which is based in Horstel, Germany.

The double tines are available only on the company's machines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, H. Niemeyer Sohne Gmbh & Co., Postfach 1165, 48466 Horstel, Germany (ph 54 54 910 0; fax 5454 910 111).



New Grain Cleaner Has No Moving Parts

The only thing moving in this new grain cleaner is the grain.

Developed by Russian ag engineers and marketed by the British company, Alvan Blanch, the new cleaner has no moving parts yet occupies a floor area of less than half a square yard. Yet it will clean up to 1,000 bu. of grain per hour.

It consists of a 6-ft. high tower fitted inside with a series of curved tined sieves. Grain is dumped in the top and falls by gravity over the interlocking series of sieves. The design takes advantage of the different densities of grain and chaff, depositing grain out one exit and chaff out the other. Different size sieve sections are available for different size crops.

The new cleaner will be on the market for about \$8,000 later this year. (Farmer's Weekly)



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly

Rotary Chisel Also Fitted With Stationary Shanks

Rotary chisel plows are not new but this new model built by Italian manufacturer Falc combines stationary deep-ripping shanks with rotating shanks.

"We believe this is the best primary tillage tool in the world," says company president Piero Zama. "It's faster, requires less power, turns over less sod, and digs through deep layers of compact soil so water and roots can penetrate."

In addition, the forward propulsion provided by the rotating shanks reduces tire wear by preventing tire slippage, and reduces wear and tear to the towing components on the tractor.

Standard width is 9 ft. wide. Works at speeds up to 4 mph. Works in everything from hard, dry stony soils to wet ground and leaves the ground smooth, says Zama.



Digs down to 18 in. deep. The pto gear-box driving the rotating shanks shifts between three speeds to adapt to ground conditions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Falc S.R.L., Via Proventa 41, 48018 Faenza (RA), Italia (ph 39 546 29050; fax 39 546