

# Update On Previously Published New Products

## New Sickle Drives For Mowers, Combines

You can combine, mow or swath up to twice as fast with the new "Double Stroke" sickle drive for cutterbars, now on the market from SI Distributing.

Designed for cutterbars less than 15 ft. long, it essentially "doubles" the length of each stroke of the sickle," explains Joe Whitney, president. "We had tremendous farmer interest following FARM SHOW's initial report several years ago on the prototype. The unit is now in production and available for sale to interested farmers.

"The Double Stroke drive allows much higher cutting speeds. For every revolution of the gear box pulley you get four cuts, allowing much slower sickle speeds for slower ground travel. If faster travel is desired, just speed up the drive by decreasing gear box pulley size, or increasing drive pulley size.

"The gear box is a continuously running internal gear planetary drive that doesn't start and stop at the end of each stroke. Therefore, it can run faster, with very little vibration, even at speeds higher than a normal wobble box would run," Whitney explains.

He notes that the new drive also helps reduce shatter loss because of its faster cutting action which slices off plants with virtually no jerking or jarring. It adapts to most mowers, combines and swathers equipped with cutterbars up to 15 ft. or less in length.

Also new from SI Distributing, for cutterbars up to 30 ft. long, is the "Over Stroke" sickle drive. Similar in design to the Double Stroke, it drives the sickle 3-1/4



When operated at regular speed, the double stroke sickle drive has twice the cutting action of a conventional sickle. In, on each stroke, allowing for faster cutting speeds and longer section life.

"A key feature of both the Double Stroke and Over Stroke gear boxes is that the sickle head runs in a linear motion rather than in an arc, resulting in less power required to operate, smoother operation and longer life," explains Whitney.

He says both new drives will be available in the spring of 1995 for the more popular combine, mower and windrower cutterbars.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SI Distributing, Rt. 3, Box 104, St. Marys, Ohio 45885 (ph 1 800 368-7773).

In Canada, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Argis Ltd., Franz Greisbach, president, Box 154, Listowel, Ont., Canada N4W 3G8 (ph 519 291-4205).



Two new Challenger tractor models are available with 16 to 32-in. wide rubber belts for row crop work.

## Rubber-Tracked Caterpillar "Row Crop"

Caterpillar's state-of-the-art "row crop" rubber-tracked tractor - FARM SHOW showed a prototype last year (Vol. 17, No. 6) - is now on the market. Look for it at farm shows this fall.

Two models are available - the Challenger 35 and 45. The Challenger 45 is rated at 200 pto hp and the Challenger 35 at 175 pto hp. Both are available with 16 to 32-in. wide "Mobil-Trac" rubber belts. The undercarriage on both tractors can be adjusted to fit various row spacings using spacers that extend the axles. Spacing between tracks

can be varied from 60 to 88 in.

Three sets of mid wheels along with the idler and driver create five axles, with a weight distribution of 4,400 lbs. per axle. The mid wheels are mounted to the undercarriage and allow the tractor to bridge over rough spots in the field. A Cat 3116 ATTAC (air-to-air aftercooled) engine powers the tractors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Caterpillar Inc., P.O. Box 10097, Peoria, Ill. 61612 (ph 309 675-4693).



Solar-powered robot mower works its way slowly around lawn, bouncing back from obstacles and moving on to other uncut grass.

## Robot Mower Now On The Market

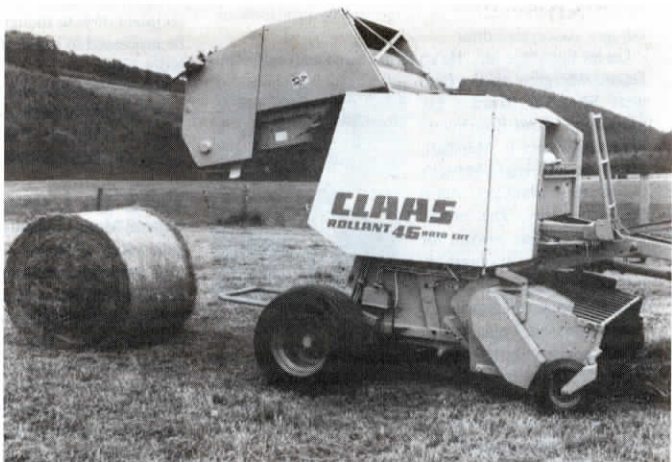
That "robot mower" from Belgium that was featured on the cover of FARM SHOW a year and a half ago (Vol. 17, No. 1) is now on the market in the U.S. and Canada, marketed by Poulan/Weed Eater of Shreveport, La.

"We've sold a limited number of units to over 30 dealers this year and expect them to be more widely available by next year," says David Anderson, project manager.

The first-of-its-kind, solar-powered "Weed Eater Robotic" is totally automatic, keeping your lawn at a pre-set height without refueling and requires virtually no maintenance. It senses the height of un-cut grass

and shuts down if grass is too wet to mow. A bank of solar cells on top direct-drives the mower blades. It works its way slowly around a lawn, bouncing back from obstacles and moving on to other uncut grass. (On yards without a natural boundary to turn the mower, you run an underground wire that sends a signal to the mower as it approaches. The underground wire is charged by a solar unit). Sells for about \$2,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Anderson, Project Manager, Poulan/Weed Eater, 5020 Flournoy-Lucas Rd., Shreveport, La. 71129 (ph 318 687-0100).



New Claas "Roto Cut" chops hay before baling it to increase bale density and improve hay quality while cutting costs.

## Claas Markets New "Chopper-Baler"

Round balers that chop hay as you bale have been catching on fast in Europe. Claas recently started selling its "Roto Cut" in North America.

It increases bale density and improves hay quality while cutting costs, according to the company. Hay from the pickup is pulled by a rotor over a bank of 14 stationary knives - spaced 2 3/4-in. apart - before it goes into the bale chamber. It produces 4-ft. dia. bales that weigh up to 2,000 lbs., depending on dry matter. "Bales are up to 30 percent more dense than conventional round bales. That means you end up with fewer bales which reduces baling, wrapping, and handling costs. The chopped hay makes higher quality feed," says a company spokesman.

The star-shaped knives mount in an offset pattern to produce a smooth flow of crop over the knives and cut peak loads on the rotor. The knives are spring-loaded for protection from rocks and other foreign objects. When the knives hit a rock, they retract downward to let the object pass through, then reset themselves. The entire knife mechanism can be engaged or disengaged on-the-go by flipping a switch in the cab.

The Roto Cut sells for about \$3,000 more than the company's conventional round baler.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Claas of America, Inc., 3030 Norcross Drive, Box 3008, Columbus, Ind. 47202 (ph 812 342-4441).