

# Latest New Products, Ideas From England's Royal Show

Associate Editor Bill Gergen recently attended England's largest farm show, the Royal International Agricultural Exhibition near Coventry. The show is held every year in July. More than 1,000 companies from all over Europe filled the show grounds with latest new machinery developments. Featured here are some of the new products and ideas that caught his eye.



Drum-type mower is pulled alongside a 24-ft. long, 7 1/2-ft. wide feed wagon. Mower is equipped with a swingover drawbar that hooks up to the wagon tongue.

## "Zero Grazing" Mower-Feeder Combo

The idea behind this new "zero grazing" mower-wagon combination is to cut fresh grass every day and feed it immediately. (The first prototype was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 21, No. 4).

The drum-type mower has a cutting width of 7 ft. 6 in. and is pulled alongside a 24-ft. long, 7 1/2 ft. wide feed wagon. The mower is equipped with a swingover drawbar that hooks up to the wagon tongue. As grass is cut it's blown into the wagon. Once the wagon is full the operator unhooks the mower and pulls the wagon to his cattle. The wagon holds more than 6 tons of fresh grass and is equipped with slanted bars on all sides. Six tons is enough for 100 cows for one day. The unchopped grass remains cool for 24 hours.

The inventor says cows are able to achieve much higher intakes of grass because they spend less time and energy grazing, which leads to improved yields. By keeping cows out of the pasture, the zero grazing system eliminates trampled and fouled grass so total grass yield is higher. Cows can be kept in-



Once wagon is full operator unhooks the mower and pulls wagon to his cattle.

side buildings, or on fields close to the buildings, eliminating the need for expensive fencing. Another advantage is that the grazing season can be extended without having to turn cows out in cold weather, greatly reducing the amount of silage that must be put up for winter.

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## "Soft Touch" Round Bale Wrapper

Setting wrapped round bales down gently on the ground is important to keep stubble from puncturing the plastic. McHale's new 991B round bale wrapper rolls the wrapped bale onto a bale mat which is then lowered gently to the ground. When the rotating table stops and is raised to the tipping position, a bale damper raises to cradle the bale while a second arm lowers automatically to the ground. A hydraulic cylinder connected to a hinged steel frame under the mat is then slowly retracted.

The bale can also be lowered to the ground and tipped onto its end, where the wrapping is thickest. To do this a steel stand is hydraulically raised to lift one end of the mat, tilting it at an angle. The company says silage bales tilted upright this way retain their cylindrical shape for longer periods.

Cost of the machine is about \$14,500. A fully electronic model sells for about \$17,000.

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**When rotating table stops and is raised to tip position, damper raises to cradle bale while a second arm is hydraulically lowered to ground.**



"Side tip" damper allows bales to be gently lowered to ground and tipped on their ends, with no stress to wrapper chassis.



Weeds are fed between a pair of pto-powered rollers which are said to pull 90 percent of weeds in one pass. Working width of the machine is about 5 ft.

## Mechanical Weed Puller

This mechanical weed puller is designed to pull tall weeds without using chemicals.

Weeds are fed between a pair of pto-powered rollers which are said to pull 90 percent of weeds in one pass. An adjustable angle front feed belt guides the weeds into the rollers. The heads of tall weeds are drawn forward toward the guide belt by the action of a rotating feed reel. Weed gripping height is adjustable between 5 and 16 in. and working

width of the machine is about 5 ft. Pulled weeds are collected in a hopper which can be tipped hydraulically at intervals. The hopper can be removed to allow pulled weeds to fall to the ground.

Sells for about \$15,000.

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"Teletrak" is equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and drawbar on back and a 3-section, center-mounted boom on front. It can tow loads at up to 25 mph on the highway. "I built it because I wanted a combination of good visibility, towing ability, 4-wheel steering, and 4-WD," says farmer Ken Heard.

## Farmer-Built "Telehandler"

Telehandlers are loader tractors with center-mounted telescoping booms. They're widely used on large farms in Europe. Not satisfied with existing machines, farmer Ken Heard decided to design and build his own 4-wheel steer model that lets him tow loads at up to 25 mph on the highway.

"I built it because I wanted a combination of good visibility, towing ability, 4-wheel steering, and 4-WD," says Heard, who runs a custom baling service.

His "Teletrak" is equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and drawbar on back and a 3-section, center-mounted boom on front. The boom has a maximum lift capacity of 3 tons, a lift height of 22 ft., and the ability to lift 1 ton at a maximum forward reach of 14 ft. Power is provided by a 106 hp turbocharged 4-cyl. Perkins 1004 engine mounted under the cab. The tractor is equipped with a mechanical transmis-

sion instead of the conventional torque converter transmission. Electronically engaged four and crab-wheel steer modes make the machine very maneuverable.

"It works as good for towing as for loading," says Heard. "Conventional telehandlers have good visibility and lift capability. But with their torque converter transmissions, lack of engine braking, and rear wheel steering, they can't be used to tow big trailers at high speeds on the road.

"I've put 1,700 hours on it during the last two years hauling and handling 40,000 big square bales. I've also used it to pull grain carts and to load wagons with a 2-ton capacity grain bucket."

He's looking for a manufacturer.

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