

New Products From England's Royal Show

Featured here and on the following page are "best of the show" new products that caught my eye while covering the recent 1987 Royal International Agricultural Show near Coventry in England. Widely recognized as one of the biggest and best farm shows in the world, it attracts upwards of 200,000 visitors from more than 100 countries to view new products displayed by about 1,300 exhibitors.



Only the outer circumference is wrapped, which cuts usage of plastic in half.

PROGRESSIVELY WRAPS EACH BALE

"Tube-Line" Bale Wrapper

"It's the first and only machine of its kind in the world," says David Anderson, Scottish farmer and inventor of the new "Tube-Line" wrapper for big round bales of hay, straw or silage.

The new-style machine progressively wraps each bale in 18-in. wide plastic to form a continuous sealed line. "With the flat face of each bale pressed firmly against its neighbor, only the outer circumference is wrapped. This eliminates the need for end-sealing individual bales and cuts the usage of plastic by half," Anderson told FARM SHOW. "Once the tube is formed, there is no further handling until the bales are used."

The "Tube-Line" wrapper consists of a hydraulic pull-bar which feeds bales through the wrapping chamber, a film dispenser which orbits the bale as it is fed through, and a sloping roller-conveyor which eases the line of bales to the ground.

Bales are loaded onto the feed table with a loader-mounted spear. Each bale is pulled (by two long-stroke hydraulic arms) through the wrapping chamber to form a continuous, unbroken line, each being pressed against the preceding bale by the

arms of the feed bar. The speed of feed is controlled by the operator. "On silage bales, the plastic wrap is overlapped 75%, giving four layers of film. A 50% overlap gives two layers, which is usually sufficient for wrapping hay or straw bales," explains Anderson. "A two-person crew—one to operate the machine and one to load bales onto it—can wrap about 400 silage bales, or 500 hay or straw bales, in a day. There is no limit to the number of bales making up the wrapped line, apart from space restrictions. Succeeding tubes of bales can be formed alongside the first. For feeding, bales are simply lifted up and out with a tractor loader. This lifting action breaks the seal. You don't even have to cut the plastic."

The Tube-Line" (U.S. patent pending) is being introduced in Scotland and England at a retail price of right at \$7,000. Anderson welcomes inquiries from interested North American dealers, distributors and manufacturers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Anderson, Avals Farm, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB5 7RY.

"GREAT FOR HANDLING BIG BALES"

Unimog Front Loader

"Works great for handling big bales of hay, straw or even silage," says an English firm that equipped a Unimog 1000 with a special made bumper that accommodates a conventional front-mounted tractor loader.

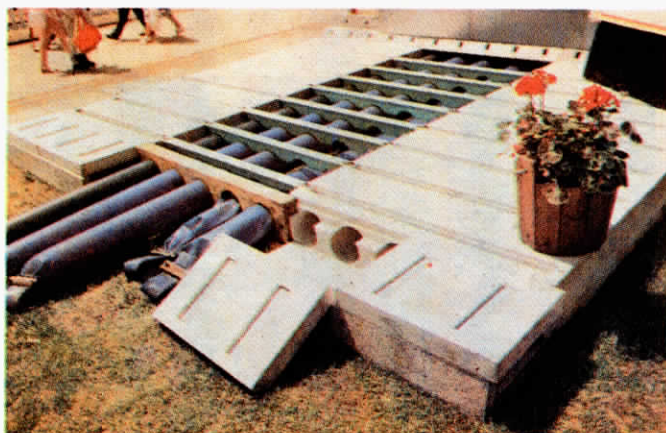
We beefed up the front frame and replaced the original bumper with a heavier one that's designed to accept a front loader. Putting it on, or taking it off, is as fast and easy as mounting it on a tractor. We're using an 8-year old Ford loader but most any make or model could be adapted," explains Ken Jordan of Straw Feed Service, which sells equipment for custom bagging and treating baled straw and hay with ammonia to boost TDN value, protein content and palatability. Ammonia, carried in tanks mounted on the rear of the Unimog, is injected into bales through the tips of spears mounted on the front of the loader. "This rear weight offsets

front weight, making the vehicle easy to handle and steer under load," says Jordan.

He notes that, for custom work, the Unimog, is "handier than a tractor" since it moves faster down the road.

"We'd be happy to custom-build bumpers for other Unimog owners interested in a front-loader hookup. We've had a few inquiries from owners of 4-wheel-drive pickups but we tell them a front loader hookup wouldn't be practical for heavy loads," Jordan points out. (FARM SHOW featured a rear-mounted 3 pt. hookup for pickups in Vol. 10, No. 6, 1986, designed primarily for transporting combine heads.)

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Straw Feed Services Ltd., Hempton Green, Fakenham, Norfolk, England NR21 7LG (ph 0328 3709-44055).



Long, sausage-like "balloons" are used to form 6-in. dia. tunnels in the concrete floor.

'GRANARY FLOOR SYSTEM'

New Low-Cost Way To Dry, Store Grain

Latest new way to dry and store grain in Great Britain is a do-it-yourself "Granary Floor System" made of concrete with built-in air passage tunnels.

"It's the most cost-effective system on the market for drying stored grain," says Peter Turner, marketing director for Grain Floor Technology, manufacturer-marketer of forms and other supplies which farmers can rent for do-it-yourself construction.

Key to its "unmatched efficiency" in moving air are circular (6 in. dia.) tunnels running lengthwise in a "pour it yourself" concrete floor about 10 in. thick, and slot openings which run crosswise and are covered with expanded metal strips. "With normal 12 in. spacing between slots, only 6% of the floor surface is ventilated. Because of the efficiency of the built-in tunnels to move air, that's usually all that's needed," says Turner.

The floor is laid in bays 4 ft. wide and up to 45 ft. long. If laid over existing concrete, 6 in. dia. tunnel-forming rubber tubes (inflatable sausages) lay directly on it. Depth of the floor is generally 8 in. when laid over existing concrete, and 10 in. when laid on

bedrock. For do-it-yourself construction, farmers rent "inflatable sausages" and other forms required to pour a 4 ft. wide bay. They then use the rented equipment to pour a bay a day until the job is finished.

British farmers are installing the new-style grain drying floor in new and existing livestock and machine sheds, and in granaries of all sizes and shapes. In machine sheds, for example, the drying floor is strong enough so tractors and other heavy equipment can be driven over it when the structure isn't being used for grain storage. When used in combination livestock-grain storage buildings, the slot openings can be covered with straw, allowing manure solids to build up on the floor while liquid manure flows through the openings and into the built-in tunnels. To convert back to grain, you simply remove the manure and straw, and replace the metal strips covering the slot openings.

Dealer-distributor inquiries welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grain Floor Technology, Kingsthorpe Mill, Greens Norton, Nr. Towcester, Northants, England NN12 8BS (ph 0327 51949).



Heavier bumper was installed to carry the front-mounted loader.