

Latest New Products, Ideas From Foreign Farm Shows

FARM SHOW Magazine covers all major farm equipment shows in the U.S., Canada and other countries, including the recent Smithfield Show in London, England, and the New Zealand National Fieldays near Hamilton, New Zealand. Featured on this page are a few products that caught the eyes of veteran farm writers Mick Roberts and Hugh Stringleman, who attended the shows.

Rear-Wheel Steer For ATV

An add-on rear wheel steer axle for ATV's won an invention award at the New Zealand National Fieldays.

The extra axle gives an ATV 4-wheeler crab steering for better maneuverability. It involves installation of new steering rods, stub axles, and an electric servomotor, along with modifications of the rear suspension.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Temple-Cox, 121 Awakau Rd., RD1, Mokau, North



Taranaki, New Zealand (ph 64 6 752-9827; E-mail: byeflies@xtra.co.nz).

Stationary Silage Baler

Chopped corn silage and other forage mixtures can be fed directly into this new round baler and wrapper from Orkel in Switzerland.

What makes the baler-wrapper different is that it's designed to be stationary, and is fitted with a conveyor that feeds crop material into it. You park the baler on the edge of the field and feed silage into it like you would into a silo blower. It compresses the silage as it forms the bale, then wraps it tightly.

Contact: FARM SHOW



Followup, Orkel AS, N-7320 Fannrem, Switzerland (ph 47 72 48 80 00; E-mail: orkel@orkel.no; Website: www.orkel.no).

New French Combine

French manufacturer Hydrotronic recently unveiled an all-new combine, which is still under test.

Aimed at the top end of the market, the big machine has a 500 hp. engine and seven big straw walkers. The threshing drum is 36 in. in dia. Features automatic hillside leveling and 4-WD.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hydrotronic Seeeneclause, 42 rue Nationale, 71420 Genelard,



Photo courtesy Matériel Agricole

France (ph 3 85 79 65 37; E-mail: hydrotronic@wanadoo.fr).

Post Puncher

The weight used to drive a post is totally enclosed inside a large diameter steel tube, making this new-style "post puncher" safer and easier to use.

The tube is placed over the post and the weight raised with a single-acting hydraulic ram, which then drops the weight onto the top of the post. Tilts left or right as needed. Can be used to drive square or round wood posts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Post Puncher, Old Sta-



tion Works, Station Road, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6QZ United Kingdom (ph/fax: 011 44 1747 873150; Website: www.postpuncher.co.uk).

"Tailgate-Closed" Indicator

If you've ever driven away with a grain box or silage wagon with the rear end open, you might like this idea from Brian Anning, Devon, England.

Anning simply used a push rod that runs from the back tailgate up to a bright orange plastic reflector on front of the box. If the tailgate is open, the reflector is up. Once it's shut, it drops down.

Contact: FARM SHOW



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly Magazine

Followup, Brian Anning, Watchford Farm, Yacombe, Devon, United Kingdom.

Four-Way Axe Splits Fast

Two small axe heads welded at right angles to either side of a large axe head allowed inventor Tony Harrison to come up with a 4-way axe that he says has double the splitting power of a single axe head.

Once you get used to it, Harrison says you can chop a log into 4 pieces with a single blow.

The 4-way axe is easy to put together yourself, he says.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Harrison, Mahihi Rd., RD5, Otorohanga, New Zealand (ph 64 7 873 2848).

New Baler Also Wraps In Plastic

You can bale and wrap in one pass with this new machine from Irish manufacturer, McHale, which was introduced at the Smithfield Show in London.

The machine was designed from the ground up to produce wrapped silage bales in one pass.

Roller-type bale chamber forms the bale and then a single wrap of netting is applied to hold the bale together. The bale is then moved to the wrapping chamber as a new bale is started.

A vertical wrapping ring, equipped with two plastic rolls, quickly seals the bale in several layers of plastic. Takes just 20 seconds to apply four layers of plastic or 30 seconds for 6 layers.

The machine can produce 50 to



60 wrapped bales per hour in a heavy crop. The machine features a single control box that monitors and controls all operations. It even features an auto greasing system that automatically feeds a small bit of grease to bale rollers after each

bale is made.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McHale Engineering, Castlebar Road, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, Ireland (ph 011 353 92 20300; Website: www.mchale.net).

Do-It-Yourself Biodiesel Machine

Gasoline and diesel fuel now sell for about \$5.50 per gallon in England, mostly due to high taxes. That prompted Kent farmer Allan Hebb to start making his own fuel using waste cooking oil that he collects for free from restaurants, schools, and other institutions.

His home-brewed biodiesel worked so well he started marketing his processing equipment. Users still have to pay a \$1.50/gal. "user fee" on the biodiesel they use. He and his partner provide engine conversion kits and processors for the cooking oil.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kent Bio-Fuels, The



Barn, Drylands Farm, Malash, Canterbury, Kent CT4 8HP England (ph 011 44 7802 816121).

Fencepost Protector

Last year British farmer Stuart Tindall was putting up a new fence. The constant splitting of the top of the wood posts led him to design an anti-split protector.

It consists of a piece of roller chain attached to a short length of threaded rod mounted on a hand crank off a piece of farm machinery. He simply wraps the chain around the top of the post, hooks it on the rod, and cranks it down tight.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stuart Tindall, Rowantree Farm, Ainthorpe, Whitby, N. Yorkshire, United Kingdom.



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly Magazine

Fence Break Alarm

Sheep farmer Rod Ellis wanted an alarm that would immediately let him know if an electric fence line had been broken by cattle.

He made his own using a 120-decibel siren from a home burglar alarm system and an adjustable spring with a threaded bar that attaches to a short length of cord which in turn connects to an electric switch. If cattle break through the fence and the pull cord tightens, it sets off the siren, which Ellis can hear from anywhere on the farm.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rod Ellis, The Byrth Farm, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, United Kingdom.

Bolt-Down Trailer Lock

There are a number of different products on the market to lock up trailer hitches but British inventor James Sheldrick took a different approach.

He wanted something that would be anchored to the ground and that could be driven over. His solution was a chunk of steel plate bolted to a cement slab and fitted with a short pto shaft and U-joint with a ball hitch welded to the end. The ball is simply inserted into the trailer hitch and locked down. To steal the trailer, a thief would have to cut off the hitch and install a new one.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Sheldrick, Home Farm, Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, United Kingdom.



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly Magazine

Simple Way To Aerate Grain

Protecting grain in flat storage is a lot easier for UK farmer Alun Hughes since he came up with an easy way to insert aeration tubes.

Hughes has no in-floor aeration so he normally screws aeration pipes down into the grain after it's in place. That can be an exhausting job, especially on a hot harvest day.

He came up with a much easier alternative using a shop vac. He shoves a piece of solid plastic pipe into the grain and inserts the shop vac hose down into it to suck out grain as he pushes the pipe down into the pile. Once the pipe is in far enough, he pulls out the vac hose and inserts a piece of perforated plastic drain tile into the pipe, then extracts the pipe, leaving the



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly Magazine

tile in place. Contact: Alun Hughes, Home Farm, Berwick, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England.