

What's New In Europe?

We recently sent frequent FARM SHOW contributor Andrew Sewell to Agritechnica, one of the biggest farm shows in the world. More than 2,300 exhibitors showed their stuff in Hanover, Germany. Featured on this page are a few of the ideas that caught Andy's eye.



Huge 8-Wheel-Drive Deutz Tractor

Deutz made a big splash at Agritechnica with the introduction of a 600-hp 8-wheel tractor that features a full powershift transmission.

The Deutz-Fahr XXL 1630 on exhibit was a prototype built in a partnership between Deutz and a German university. Two pairs of tandem axles - plus an articulated steering system - keep all wheels in maximum contact

with the ground.

The giant tractor switches between full 8-wheel drive in the field to 4-wheel-drive on the road. There's no pto on back. The machine is designed to tow implements and haul large loads on the rear load platform.

Contact: Deutz AG (ph 011 49 221 822 0; www.deutz.com).

Lightweight Aluminum Header

The ultralight BISO 800 aluminum 36-ft. wide header from Austria is made of lightweight hollow aluminum components that the company says will have a life equal to other similar headers.

Even the feeder auger is made of aluminum.

The company says the lighter weight will cause less wear and tear on the combine, boosting efficiency and lengthening life of the combine. The aluminum header fits all major makes of combines.



Contact: BISO Schrattecker GmbH (ph 011 43 775179110; www.biso.at)

Robocrop In-Row Weeder

German farmers crowded around this robotic in-row weeder that cultivates weeds between rows and also "in" the row.

Garford Farm Machinery in England says the individual row units can be mounted in any row spacing on a toolbar, with a minimum of 80 hp required for a 6-ft. 4-row unit and 150 hp for a 18-ft. 12-row unit. Cameras on each row unit send signals to machine hydraulics to rotate the semi-circular tillage shovel in between plants in the row.

Speed depends on field conditions and the spacing between plants in the row. In general, the company says it'll weed 2 plants per sec-



ond per row. There must be clear separation between plants in the row for the system to work effectively.

Contact: Garford Farm Machinery (ph 011 44 1778 342642; www.garford.com).

Spray Boom Fitted With LED Lights

Two manufacturers at Agritechnica showed spray booms fitted with LED lights - Amazone and Dammann (pictured). Makes the spray easily visible during evening and night time hours. Plugged-up nozzles become easily visible and you can quickly check the spray pattern.

The bright lights also help avoid objects within the working width of the boom, and make it easier to spot if the tractor strays off path. Because of their low power usage, the LED's require minimum electricity.



Contact: Herbert Dammann GmbH (011 49 4163/8163-0; www.dammann-technik.de) or Amazone GmbH (011 49 5481/90341-0; www.amazone.de).

Sprayer Features Telescoping Booms

The operating width of this new sprayer from the German company Lemken can be adjusted on-the-go, thanks to 3 telescoping boom sections on either side of the sprayer.

The sprayer is particular useful on tramlines, widely used in Europe, because operators can retract a boom on either side - or both sides - of the sprayer to avoid an obstacle and avoid leaving the tramline path.

Key to success of the variable-width sprayer is the nozzle control, which switches them off automatically as the boom is retracted, maintaining the same application rate. The



boom can also be tied into a GPS system to automatically turn off boom sections as needed along headlands.

Contact: Lemken (ph 011 49 2802 81; www.lemken.com).

Forage Fill 3D Monitor

"Forage eye" camera from Claas mounts under the spout on big forage harvesters. The 3-D image analysis software automatically monitors filling of silage wagons.

Makes it easier to fill big trucks and wagons completely without any spillage. Data is transmitted to a readout in the cab so you can fill the load evenly. It works at night also, eliminating mistakes due to poor visibility.

The company notes that besides making forage harvesting more efficient, the auto fill system lowers stress on equipment operators, and makes it possible for less experienced operators to do the job.

New Holland introduced a similar 3-D



scanner system that mounts on the spout and is wired to a flap control on the spout. The spout can be automatically programmed to the contours of the wagon being filled.

Contact: Claas Germany (ph 011 49 5241 3006-4800; www.agrocom.com).

Pumpkin Harvest Equipment

A Slovenian company showed off its innovative pumpkin and squash-harvesting equipment at Agritechnica.

Kovastvo Prelog Alojz in Verzej says its equipment makes large-scale production of pumpkins more economical. Its equipment can also be used for custom harvesting.

The company's "pumpkin plow" is a V-shaped front-mount blade that moves pumpkins into windrows. Then the harvester runs down the rows. A large wheel fitted with sharp spikes pokes into the pumpkins, lifting them up to be dumped into a wagon hopper.

Contact: Kovastvo Prelog Alojz (ph 011 386 2 587 14 63; www.kovastvo-prelog.si).



Ground Compaction Detector

A first-of-its-kind "soil load monitor" consists of an ultrasonic sensor that mounts in the wheel rim to continuously measure soil resistance.

The Grasdorf system allows you to automatically or manually adjust tire pressure to maximize soil contact between tire and soil. Allows the operator to adjust to field conditions and load. Data from the sensor is transmitted wirelessly to an electronic readout in the cab. Saves tire life and boosts traction.

Another on-the-go tire pressure monitoring system was on display at the show from Agco's Fendt tractor company.



Contact: Grasdorf (ph 011 49 50 62 902 0; www.grasdorf-rad.eu) or Fendt (ph 011 49 8342 77 343; www.fendt.com).

Belarus Tractor Features Electric Power

Following the lead of Deere & Co., which introduced a tractor with an on-board electric generator 2 years ago, Belarus brought a new electric-powered tractor to Agritechnica.

The idea is that there are now so many auxiliary systems to power on big tractors that a diesel generator will get all those jobs done more efficiently. On this Belarus, the pto is powered electrically so that its rpm's can be controlled independently of the tractor engine. Many other components, such as the cooling fan, are also electric-powered.

The generator is tucked away between the



frame of the tractor so the tractor doesn't look any different to the casual eye.

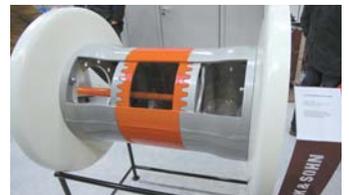
Contact: Belarus (ph 011 7 375 17 230 84 27; www.belarus-tractor.com).

New Way To Mount Duals

A new "toothed" connector makes it easy to mount duals. The coupler rings attach to each wheel and a connector goes between. A single rod through the center holds them in place.

Tires mount in any position - they don't have to be rotated - and once installed there are no hooks or eyes to worry about. They transfer power better between wheels and are available in various widths to fit a variety of row widths and tractor sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kock



& Sohn, Hofener Strasse 1+3, D-48496 Hopsten-Schale (ph 011 49 54 57 93090; www.kock-sohn.de).