

# What's New In Europe?

We recently sent frequent FARM SHOW contributor Andrew Sewell to EuroTier, one of the biggest livestock equipment shows in the world. More than 140,000 visitors showed up to view more than 1,900 exhibitors in Hanover, Germany. Featured on this page are a few of the ideas that caught Andy's eye.

## Robotic Milkers Go Rotary

DeLaval introduced the first robotic rotary milking unit at the recent EuroTier farm show in Hanover, Germany. The 90 cows per hour rotary parlor uses five robots. Two provide teat preparation. The next two do the actual milking, and a fifth robotic unit disinfects teats after milking is finished.

DeLaval says the system can be set up for any type of dairy from free stall to pasture, though capacity is determined by management needs. With the five robotic units, the rotary can milk a 540-cow herd up to three times per day or an 800-cow herd twice a day. Company spokesmen point out that the rotary also can be designed for expansion.

"A customer can start on a smaller scale

with one robot for teat preparation and one robot for milking cup attachment and achieve 50 cows per hour," says Andrew Turner, vice president, Capital Goods, DeLaval.

As the cows enter the rotary, they are identified electronically. Teat positions are pre-stored so the robotic units with their closed circuit cameras can locate them. Flow rates, yield, blood and conductivity are all measured for each quarter as the cow is milked.

DeLaval officials say the rotary will initially be introduced this year in Australia and Sweden. Pricing is not yet available, but they say it will be competitive to available



Rotary parlor fitted with 5 robots milks 90 cows per hour. System includes DeLaval's new mastitis detection system that predicts if a specific cow will develop mastitis 3 days before clinical signs appear, letting herd managers fix the problem before it happens.

automatic milking systems. Contact your local DeLaval sales office or DeLaval corporate offices (below) for more information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

DeLaval International AB, P.O. Box 39, SE-147 21 Tumba, Sweden (ph 011 46 8 530 660 00; info@delaval.com; www.delaval.com).

## Plastic Wrapper For Small Bales

If you make high quality small bales for niche markets, you will love the Tawi 200 from Gebr. Knoll.

The Tawi is a trailing, single axle wrapper for small square bales. It makes a neat package that customers can transport in their car.

The unit can wrap up to 75 square bales per hour. The loading platform picks up and holds up to three bales at once. One is retained in a loading arm position while the current bale is being wrapped.

A double table system holds and simultaneously rotates the bale while two opposing arms wrap plastic around the bale.

Sensors on the Tawi 200 communicate with a computer control box in the tractor cab. The operator can set the number of wraps desired.

European users suggest as few as 4 wraps for soft grassy hay, while coarser hay requires more wraps to prevent stems from breaking through the plastic.

The Tawi 200 comes in three models. The 200 basic (\$32,906) unloads the wrapped bale to the side of the machine. The 200A (\$35,544) unloads the bale to the rear for loading with a grapple. The 200V (\$46,096) includes a bale accumulator that drops three bales at a time to the rear for faster pickup. Independent hydraulic systems are available for the Tawi 200 and 200A for an additional \$4,286 (included with the 200V).

The company also has a prototype of a new model that combines a Tawi 200 bale wrapper and a small square baler in a single



Tawi bale wrapper, left, picks bales up in the field, wraps them, and kicks them out the back. Prototype baler, right, will incorporate a wrapper into a small square baler.



machine. Jan Knoll, Gebr. Knoll, says the new machine can bale and wrap up to 100 bales an hour.

"We will have a few of them out for testing by European farmers in 2011, with full introduction the following year. We estimate the price will be around \$105,500," says

Knoll, adding that the company's machines are not yet on the market in North America.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gebr. Knoll, Oude Rijksweg 525a, 7954 GL Rouveen, Netherlands (ph 011 31 522-291377; info@gebrknoll.nl; www.gebrknoll.nl).

## Self-Cleaning Livestock Stalls, Pens

Cattle stalls and hog pens with moving floors that turn like the belt on a treadmill attracted a lot of attention at EuroTier.

Swedish pig farmer Tommy Lidvall invented the "Moving Floor" concept and patented it world wide. He says dairy farmers who have installed the system now use 70 percent less bedding and cows stay cleaner. Computer-controlled to allow adjustments for type of animals and conditions, the floor's mechanical drive is driven by compressed air. Manure is cleaned off at one end while fresh bedding is added at the other.

The system can be installed in new or existing buildings. All that's needed is a fairly flat floor.

The concept is already in use with cows, calves, pigs, horses, sheep and even dogs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moving Floor AB, Kvie Ekeby/621 70 Visby, Sweden (ph 011 46 498-27 27 60; info@movingfloor.se; www.movingfloor.se)



Moving floor concept has been fitted to both cattle free stalls (above) and hog pens (below).



## Mobile Surgery Table

The new Rotafix mobile surgery table lets vets perform serious procedures right on the farm.

Developed by Austrian veterinarian Franz Schleder, the Rotafix holds animals on their backs, securely attaching to head, neck and individual legs. To attach, it's lowered over the back of the animal, straps are fastened in place, and then the animal is rotated 180 degrees. Once upside down, animals rest on cushioned supports.

Rotafix can be attached to the back of a tractor, supported by its own wheels.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rosensteiner GmbH, 4594 Steinbach/Steyr-Zehetner 26a, Austria (ph 011 43 7257/7071; www.rosensteiner.at).



Serious operations can be performed right on the farm with animal held securely in new Rotafix mobile surgery table.

## Automatic Hoof Cleaner

A regular daily cleaning of cattle and horse hooves improves hoof health and reduces maintenance and illness in animals, says Huf & Klaue, a German company that showed its automatic hoof cleaner at EuroTier.

It was invented by farmer Udo Schmidt who wanted something that would do a better job than footbaths and manual brushes. Animals are funneled through a chute, walking across the moving brush floor. Hydraulically-powered brushes run in opposite directions, scrubbing hooves as animals cross. Manure cleaned off the hooves falls down below and is dumped out the side by small screw augers.

Height and speed of brushes can be easily adjusted. And a pump can be used to spray polishes or other solutions onto hooves.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Huf & Klaue mbh, Eberhardstr. 2, 37 139 Adelebsen, Germany (ph 011 49 5506/8929462; www.hufundklaue.com).



Cattle walk through chute fitted with hoof-cleaning brush floor.



Rows of brushes turn in opposite directions to scrub hooves clean.

## System Sorts Fish By Weight

There's never been anything like this new fish sorter that automatically divides fish into 3 separate groups by weight.

BD Fish Equipment is headquartered in Germany. The company specializes in indoor fish farming equipment, as well as consulting and customer training. They offer state-of-the-art high density fish farming systems that can be adapted to existing structures.

A clever flap gate system permits 2-way sorting. Computer controls set the weight and size desired.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BD Fish Equipment, Vechta-Calveslage, Germany (ph 011 49 4447/801-118; aboeske@bigdutchman.de; www.bd-fish.de).



Designed for fish farming operations, sorting tubes divide fish by size and weight.