

What's New In Europe

Frequent contributor Andy Sewell in England recently attended a couple British shows on our behalf. Here are a few of the products and ideas that caught his eye.



Mini Flail Spreader

Hold's the equivalent of 5 wheelbarrow loads of manure. Powered by a 10 1/2 hp. Briggs and Stratton engine, flail chains spread manure out the side. Top flips back for easy filling. (Quad-X; Northern Ireland; www.quad-x.com; ph 011 44 2825 872 800)



Nifty Lamb Holder

New LambTec mini "chute" makes it easy to load lambs into an upright sitting position that makes it easy to work on them. Mounts on an easily adjustable stand that holds tools and supplies. Sells for right at \$450. (Ritchie Ltd.; England; www.ritchie-uk.com; ph 011 44 1307 462271)



Post Wrap Stops Rot

Patented sleeve slides over wood posts. Extends from 2 in. above ground to 10 in. below to fight off moisture, termites, and surface nutrients. Company claims it extends life 40 percent. Costs \$1.50/post; 12 sizes. Propane torch "melts" it to post in about 6 sec. (Post Saver; England; www.postsaver.co.uk; ph 011 44 845 643 4089)



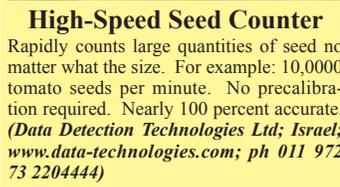
Machine Sorts Seeds With Air

Seed is sorted to size with "air weighing" instead of sieves. Doubles as a seed cleaner by sorting out lighter or heavier trash. Can also be used to sort metals, plastics, wood chips, and all types of pellets. (Cleaner Aero Dynamic; England; www.solution4crops.com; ph 011 44 1472 753936)



Deere Robo Mower

Deere's marketing group in Germany recently posted a video on on YouTube of a new Robo Mower that automatically runs across the yard, constantly keeping it trimmed. There's no talking on the video. At the end it says the new mower will be available in Spring, 2012. You can see the video at www.farmshow.com.



High-Speed Seed Counter

Rapidly counts large quantities of seed no matter what the size. For example: 10,000 tomato seeds per minute. No precalibration required. Nearly 100 percent accurate. (Data Detection Technologies Ltd; Israel; www.data-technologies.com; ph 011 972 73 2204444)



"Snowbine" Plows, Melts Big Drifts

Show crowds loved this Claas combine fitted with a big V-plow on front and a snow-melting fire thrower on back. One operator sits in the cab and another in a seat on back, melting big drifts or burning off ice on driveways as snow is plowed. The "Snowbine", as it's called, was put together in England by Combine World, a large seller of used combines.



Fast Front-End Bale Wrapper

Innovative design lets you drive along a line of big round bales, pick them up one at a time, wrap them, and then lay them back down in a neat row. (Front Machinery Ltd.; Scotland; www.frontmachinery.com; ph 011 44 1333 360227)



Plastic Livestock Equipment

Solway makes livestock equipment out of recycled plastic collected on farms. Calf houses, sow stalls, feeders, wallboard, are just some of the products. Company says it's easy to clean and won't rot or harbor insects. (Solway; England; www.solwayrecycling.co.uk; ph 011 44 1387 730 666)



Dave Benoit converted this 1948 Massey Harris Pony tractor to electric power, adding a plywood dump box on front.

Massey Harris "Pony" Converted To Electric Power

"It runs quiet and costs very little to operate," says 79-year-old Dave Benoit, Quailcum Beach, B.C., who converted a 1948 Massey Harris Pony tractor to electric power. It's complete with a 6-ft. long, 4-ft. wide, 18-in. high plywood dump box on front.

There's no gas or oil in the tractor, and no engine, belts or pulleys. The transmission is built into the tractor's housing.

"I made the conversion a year ago for a local hog farmer who uses it to clean manure out of brood pens inside a confinement barn," says Benoit. "Sows don't like to hear noise or smell fumes and can get so agitated they eat their young. Electric tractors work great in confinement barns, because you can work with no noise or exhaust fumes or fuel. He has used the tractor for a year now with no problems."

He took everything off the tractor's housing and hooked the electric motor up to the stub shaft coming out of the transmission.

Four 12-volt batteries are stored in a metal box under the home-built frame. He mounted a sprocket on the driveshaft coming out of the transmission and installed a DC electric motor on it.

The electronic components out of an old golf cart, including relays, a rheostat, switches, and throttle, are used to control the tractor's speed and to charge the batteries. The rheostat controls the voltage on the DC motor and is activated whenever the driver presses down on the golf cart's accelerator pedal.

A winch and cable and pulley system acts on a pair of 2-ft. long telescoping sq. metal tubes that are used to raise and lower the dump box. A mercury switch on the box limits how far the box can be raised.

"The customer I built it for loves it," says Benoit. "I used a Massey Harris Pony tractor because the transmission on it is built into the rear end housing. In high gear, it'll go 22 to 23 mph."

"The four 12-volt deep cycle batteries will run for several hours on one charge. A 48-volt charger is used to recharge the batteries overnight."

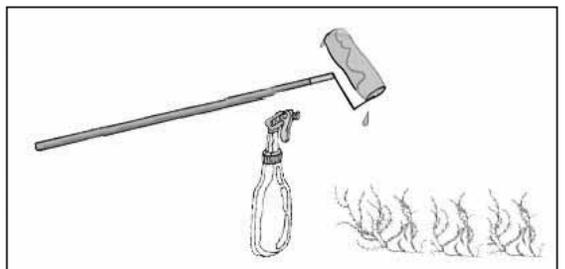
Benoit paid \$150 for the electronic components from the golf cart. "I decided to go this route after checking out the cost for commercial switches, relays, and throttles. It would've cost about \$5,000 which I think was ridiculously high," says Benoit.

When building the plywood dump box he treated the wood with a sealer, adding paint to the sealer to "waterproof" the wood. "The customer uses a garden hose to wash the box down. Even after a year spent hauling manure, the box still looks like new," notes Benoit.

Benoit bought the DC motor at an electric supply store. He says he's willing to build for others.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Benoit, 1140 Chatsworth Rd., Quailcum Beach, B.C. V9K 1V6 Canada (ph 250 752-6062).

To kill weeds without the danger of spray drift, Donald Bunch sprays Roundup out of a 1-quart spray bottle onto an ordinary handheld paint roller.



Paint Roller Makes A Dandy Wick Wiper

Donald Bunch wanted to kill weeds along his flowerbeds, gardens and walkways without the danger of spray drifting onto flowers and shrubs. So the Aberdeen, Miss., man came up with a simple solution. He sprays Roundup out of a 1-quart spray bottle onto an ordinary handheld paint roller.

"It works like a wick wiper but you don't need to pour a lot of chemical into it to use

it. You just spray on what you need, and you don't have to stoop or bend," says Bunch. "There's no overspray and no drift. I had been using a 1 1/2-gal. pump sprayer."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Bunch, Bunch Farm Services, Inc., P.O. Box 712, Aberdeen, Miss. 39730 (ph 662 369-9570).