

Test Driving Deutz's Agrottron Tractor

Hailed as a "tractor for the 21st Century", the futuristic-looking Deutz-Fahr Agrottron tractor has created excitement at every European farm show where it has appeared since its introduction a little over a year ago.

Agrottron tractors range in horsepower from 79 to 156 hp., with five 4-cyl. models and seven 6-cyl. models available with full synchro-mesh or powershift transmissions. All have water-cooled engines, unlike previous Deutz tractors which were air-cooled.

The British magazine *Farmer's Weekly* recently visited with a buyer of one of the first models sold in England. Malcolm Newton of Devon is a custom contractor who has put more than 1,400 hrs. on the Agrottron he bought last year. It's a 100 hp. 6-cyl., turbocharged model with 24-speed powershift transmission. There's a button-operated forward-reverse shuttle.

Newton, who has owned Deutz tractors since 1985, is impressed with the Agrottron's engine. Although new to the farm market, the water-cooled engine has been used in commercial machines for years.

Newton says the distinct styling of the tractor - with sloping hood and tapered cab - is a big part of what makes it unique. "You either like it or hate it. From a contractor's point of view, it certainly stands out from other makes and gives us a bit of extra publicity."

He notes that the sloped hood and large cab design give good all-around visibility. "I particularly like the thin pillars and careful positioning of the exhaust pipe in line with the corner of the cab. However, the large glass area does place considerable demands on the air conditioning system and there were times in midsummer when it seemed rather under-capacity."

Simple Big Bale Accumulator

A totally mechanical 2-bale accumulator for most sizes of big square bales is "foolproof", according to the German manufacturer.

When the first bale comes out of the baler, it slips down onto an inclined platform. The second bale comes out on top of the first bale, striking a release lever that drops both bales to the field on top of each other.

The company says the simplicity of the machine means the operator doesn't have to worry about whether it's working or not. Sells for about \$10,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Malcolm Newton, who owns a Deutz Agrottron, says he'd definitely buy another.

He also has reservations about the cooling of the engine, noting that the radiator, oil cooler and air conditioning cooling unit are all mounted in a limited space under the sloped hood. "I think there's too much crammed into a small space. I believe everything runs hotter and dustier than is ideal," he states.

One other negative on the tractor is the seat, which he calls uncomfortable. A \$70,000 tractor should have an air suspended seat, he notes.

Newton is pleased with the transmission and hydraulics and says the driving position, controls and instrumentation are excellent. "The tractor is also easy to service," he adds.

If he were in the market for a new tractor, Newton says he would definitely buy another Agrottron.

Agrottron tractors are expected to be on the market in North America soon. For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Deutz-Fahr Agrartechnik GmbH, D-51057 Koln, Germany (ph 0221 822-400).

(Reprinted from *Farmer's Weekly Magazine*)



"Foolproof" accumulator means fewer headaches for the operator.

Meijer Holland B.V. Maschinenfabrik, Stadsweg 123, NL-9792 RE Ten Post, Germany (ph 06875 17 24; fax 06875 14 99).



"Trace Guide" bolts to the front of tractor and arms are adjusted after one pass.

Sight Guide Adapts To Any Situation

You can spend thousands of dollars for a hydraulic-controlled guidance system that takes over the tractor for you, or you might want to consider this simple bolt-on sight guide that adapts to any width equipment.

The French manufacturer of the "Trace-Guide" says you simply bolt the unit to the front of the tractor, make a first pass with

your equipment, and then set up the arms on the guide as needed. Each side telescopes in or out and the vertical guides on each side can be quickly set to any angle.

Sells for \$150.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agriself, 02810 Chezy-En-Orxois, France (ph 23 71 43 89; fax 23 71 48 06).



Razorback features a floor and tailgate that drop flat to ground for easy unloading.

Easy-To-Load "Drop Bed" Pickup

Buyers of a new "drop bed" pickup discover hundreds of new uses for the easy-to-load cargo hauler, says the Australian manufacturer of the new "Razorback" pickup.

It features a floor and tailgate that drop down flat to the ground so loads can be simply wheeled on or off. There's no need for lifting. Small tractors and ATV's can be driven right onto the lowered floor.

The drop bed floor - and a patented special rear axle and U-shaped chassis - are mounted behind a VW truck cab.

Electro-hydraulic pumps, built into the sides of the vehicle body, raise and lower the floor. A pressure safety switch disables the hydraulics if a load is too heavy.

Sells for about \$30,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Razorback Vehicle Corporation Pty. Ltd., 2 Palmer Street, Woollomooloo, Sydney, Australia 2011 (ph 1800 688 678; fax 1800 688 002; Web site <http://www.razorback.aust.com>).

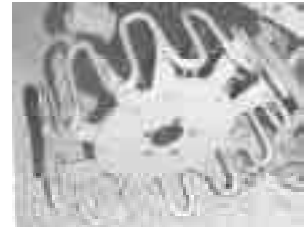
"Wire Wheel" Great For Seeding

Here's an idea from a French manufacturer for a way to reduce damage to freshly seeded fields by implement wheels.

Instead of using rubber tires, Somac came up with a "wire wheel" made up of wavy steel rod welded to a heavy spoked wheel. The new wheel touches only a fraction of the ground surface normally compressed by a rubber wheel, and yet it provides the same amount of support.

The obvious drawback is that the metal wheels are no good for transport on roads so they can only be used on mounted equipment, or equipment carried on trailers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Wheel touches only a fraction of ground conventional rubber wheels do.

Somac, 02190 Lor, Guignicourt-Sur-Aisne, France (ph 03 23 22 61 55; fax 03 23 22 69 32).



Calvet's bale accumulator loads itself so no second tractor is needed.

Bale Shredder Great For Hay, Straw

Designed for smaller operators who feed hay in barns and also spread straw for bedding, the new Calvet bale shredder requires only a 40 hp. tractor.

It loads itself so no second tractor is needed. The bale bed tilts up 90° and a side arm pulls a bale on board as the bed drops back down. A chain fitted with cutting knives rotates the bale and pulls off the hay or straw.

If you're feeding cattle, the hay drops down in an even windrow alongside the shredder. If you're bedding stalls, straw drops onto a conveyor that feeds the straw into a large pto-powered blower that can throw straw out as far as 45 ft., if needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Pto-powered blower distributes straw out as far as 45 ft.

Calvet, Route de Montauban, 12200 Villefranche-de-Rouergue, France (ph 05 65 29 94 26; fax 05 65 45 24 53).