North Dakota Once Again Produces Big Green Tractors

Thanks to a new joint international venture, Fargo, N. Dak., will once again be turning out bright green 4-WD tractors but they won't be called Steigers.

The big "Zanello" tractors will be produced through a joint agreement between Power Mart Inc. of Fargo, Zanello S.A. of Argentina, and General Tractor Inc. of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Power Mart Inc. makes the "Titan" line of tractors introduced a couple of years ago (Vol. 18, No. 6) and includes former top executives of Fargo's Steiger Tractor Co. Zanello S.A. is a long-established manufacturer of tractors and irrigation equipment from Argentina's Cordoba province. General Tractor Inc. is a marketing distribution company.

The Zanello line will initially include six models ranging from 205 to 375 hp, with the first tractors expected off the line in early to late October. Larger tractors, including 450 and 525, up to 850 hp, will follow a couple months later.

The idea was born last winter because many components - engines, cabs, hydraulics, heater and air conditioner - of Zanello S.A.'s tractors were already produced in the U.S., according to Jack Johnson, president and CEO of Power Mart.

The tractors feature articulated steering and oscillating axles, just like the old Steigers. That's thanks in part to Zanello's brief production of Steiger tractors for distribution in Mexico, South America and Saudi Arabia in the early 1980's. The arrangement ended when Steiger filed for bankruptcy reorganization in 1986.

Power Mart and Zanello say there are no patent infringement issues with Case-IH which bought Steiger in 1986. Case-IH reintroduced 4-WD Steigers last year.

Zanello tractors will be available from short line dealers, Johnson said. About 20 dealers in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana want the line, he added.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Power Mart Inc., 401 27th St. NW, Fargo, N. Dak. 58102 (ph 800 883-9686 or 701 232-6271; fax 5813).

HIGH VOLTAGE SHOCKS THEM TO DEATH

"Zapper" Kills Flies With Electrified Cables

"It's virtually maintenance-free and works better than any other fly-killing method ever developed," says Bryan Sarauer about his company's new "Fly Pop'r" system that uses a series of electrified cables to zap flies.

Developed by a New Jersey poultry pest control company and now being introduced for hog barns, it consists simply of a power unit that sends about 5,000 volts of current through a network of "killer cord". One unit can power up to 2,500 ft. of flexible nylon cord that you hang from the ceiling or rafters. Positive and negative wires are woven into the cord. A jolt of current is sent through the cord every 3.5 seconds killing all flies sitting on them. The cords, which are rust and corrosion proof, provide an attractive resting place for flies.

"It's a low amperage, very high voltage system," Sarauer notes. "It'll give a human a heckuva jolt but won't do any physical harm. It's like an electric fence, you just won't want to touch it again. The system is completely safe for livestock and poultry so I think it would have limited effect on pest birds such as sparrows."

A jolt of current is sent through flexible nylon cord that hangs from the ceiling.

The power unit plugs into any 110 volt outlet and sells for $549 (U.S.). Cord sells for $475 per 1,000 ft. A loosely-woven water-shed tape with three wires is available for high moisture situations.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Del-Air Systems, 1704 4th Ave., P.O. Box 2500, Humboldt, Sask., Canada SOK 2AO (ph 800 667-1722; fax 306 682-5559).

Hydraulic-driven 7-ft. long saw mounts on a steel frame that bolts to bucket. Individual sickle sections are bolted to a length of heavy-duty chain off a haystack mover.

"WORKS LIKE A GIANT CHAIN SAW"

Bucket-Mounted Round Bale Slicer

"It lets me cut into big round bales, leaving the hay loose enough so I can grind it up in my older model tub grinder and then feed them as part of a total mixed ration," says Mark Wangsness, Miller, S. Dak., about his home-built bucket-mounted round bale slicer.

It consists of a hydraulic-driven 7-ft. long chain saw mounted on a steel frame that bolts to the bucket. Wangsness made the chain saw from scratch by bolting individual sickle sections to a length of heavy-duty chain off a haystack mover. Sections are spaced 1 ft. apart. The chain rides on a 2-in. thick, 6-in. wide steel tubing. A hydraulic motor chain-drives a sprocket at one end of the bar that drives the cutter chain.

To use the chain saw, Wangsness raises the grapple fork up out of the way, disconnects the hydraulic hoses from it, and hooks them up to the orbit motor. To cut a bale, he sets it on the ground on its side with one end facing the bucket, then lowers the chain saw into the bale. After he's about halfway through the bale, he uses another loader tractor to dump it into the tub grinder.

"It lets me continue to use my old tub grinder instead of having to buy a newer, more expensive model," says Wangsness, who uses the patented saw with his Deere 4020 tractor and Farmhand loader. "I built it six years ago and have used it on over 1,000 bales per year on my cow-calf operation. It's big enough to handle 5 1/2 by 6-ft. bales.

"I tried using an ordinary chain saw to cut bales but it didn't work. The sickle sections on my home-built saw slice through the bale like a hot knife in butter. I use the same two-way control lever that raises and lowers the grapple fork to operate the chain saw. As the chain rotates it pulls the bale toward the bucket so that the bucket's front edge holds the bale in place. If I want I can stick the chain saw through the center of the bale and use it like a spear to transport the bale before I cut it. My bale cutter could be used by anyone who wants loose hay, whether they need to grind it up or not. I spent less than $2,000 to build it."

Wangsness used a length of 2-in. wide, 6-in. high steel tubing to build the bar. He cut off a short length of 6-in. dia. steel pipe and welded it to a steel bracket at the end of the bar. A threaded bolt inside the bar that's attached to the bracket is used to tighten the chain. The sickle sections are bolted onto steel cleats that were already on the chain.

He's looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Wangsness, HC64, Box 15, Miller, S. Dak. 57362 (ph 605 853-2583).

3-Pt. Log Grapple

"It turns an ordinary farm tractor into a high-production log skidder for a fraction of the cost of a conventional commercial skidder," says Howard Johnson, Johnson Mfg., Ogdensburg, Wis.

The new 3-pt. log grappler was introduced at the recent Wisconsin Farm Progress Days show near Wausau. It consists of a set of "claws" powered by a pair of 2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinders that operate off tractor hydraulics. The claws have a maximum opening of 31 in. The entire unit is suspended on a hinge that allows it to swing forward or backward and also left or right when making turns.

"Works great for selective cutting of trees in woodlots and for cleaning up trees after loggers go through. It works three times faster than hooking and unhooking chains from logs. The cylinders are activated by a single remote control. It weighs 460 lbs. and requires a 50 hp tractor," says Johnson.

Sells for $3,895.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Johnson Mfg. & Sales, Inc., N5499 Cty. E., Ogdensburg, Wis. 54962 (ph 800 515-4328 or 414 244-7581).