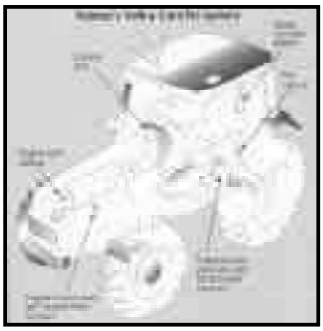
New Tractor Dials Dealer When Mechanical Problems Arise

New Valmet 4-WD tractor is equipped with sensors on its engine, transmission, and pto that are linked to a portable phone in the cab. When something goes wrong the phone rings to alert the operator that there's a mechanical problem. The tractor dealer - or more precisely, a computer at the dealership - also gets a call.

The strategically located sensors measure pto speed, engine speed, oil temperatures and pressures. Those readings are relayed to a central control unit connected to a mobile phone in the cab. It relays the information directly to a computer at a dealer where actual values, statistics, performance peaks and troughs can be studied in detail.



Drawing courtesy Farmer's Weekly

Drawing shows position of sensors on tractor that tie into automatic cell phone.

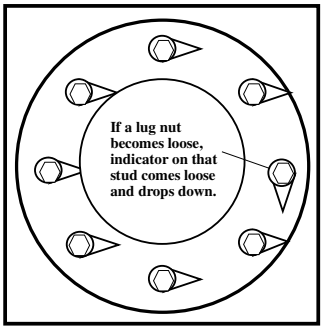
Loose Wheel" Nut Indicators

Plastic "loose wheel" nut indicators are a simple, inexpensive way to know whether the lug nuts on your rear tractor wheels are tight or loose.

You slip the units over the bolt studs and under the nuts, lining them up so that the triangular-shaped points are all set in the same direction. Then tighten up the nuts. If a nut comes loose the point will drop down, alerting you to the problem.

Sells for $4 per pack of 8.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fieldens PLC, Starhouse, Onehouse, Stowmarket, Suffolk, England 1P14 3EL, (ph 01449 675071; fax 01449 678282).

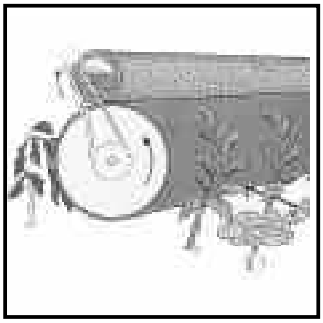


Rotating Weed Wiper

More effective weed kill is promised with the "Rollmaster", a rotating weed wiper that coats the underside of leaves on weeds that extend above the crop.

It uses two rollers - a reservoir tube on top of a larger diameter roller that's chain-driven by a battery-driven motor. Roundup and a polymer thickener are poured into the reservoir tube (the thickener keeps the herbicide from dripping). As the rollers revolve in opposite directions, the reservoir tube automatically transfers the mixture to the bottom roller which applies chemical to the underside of the weed leaves. The herbicide is completely protected from the rain and the sticky mixture allows it to be used in windy conditions.

The reservoir tube has baffles inside it to keep all the chemical from flowing to one end when working on hillsides.



Models available to mount behind a tractor or ATV in widths from 3 1/2 to 24 ft. A 24-ft. model sells for $6,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carier Rollmaster Ltd., East Street, Braintree, Essex CM7 3JL, England (ph 01376 331025; fax 01376 552562).

Diesel-Powered ATV's

Gas costs a lot more in Europe than it does in the U.S., which explains why many of the ATV's sold there are equipped with diesel engines. E P Barrus Ltd., a British company, imports Polaris ATV's from the U.S. and outfits them with Yanmar diesel engines that get up to 100 mpg. The company says when the 4-gal. fuel tank and 1/2-gal. reserve tank are full you can operate for up to 40 hours before you have to refuel. Also, the diesel engines have a lot of torque and pulling power.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E.P. Barrus Ltd., Launton Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6 OUR, England (ph 01869 363636; fax 01869 363640).

Another company that sells diesel ATV's is GHL Products. The "Diablo" can be ordered with a twin cylinder, water-cooled Lombardini or Mitsubishi diesel

engine. The diesel engine, combined with a variable speed belt drive torque converter, provides great pulling power and acceleration, says the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GHL Products, Lodge Farm, Hankelow, Crewe, Cheshire, England CW3 OJE (ph 01270 811671; fax 01270 812157).

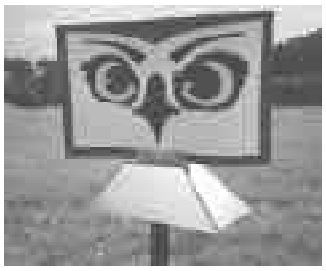
Wind-Driven "Bird Scarer

The wind powers this new-style bird deterrent that's equipped with bird "eyes" and mirrors.

The "Flashing Hawkeye" consists of an aerofoil-shaped PVC board with eyes on one side and the image of a hawk on the other side, and a series of mirrors under it. The board and mirrors mount on top of a post and revolve in the wind on sealed bearings. "The mirrors provide a flash that can be seen at great distances so it protects large acreages," says the manufacturer. "They even work at night under a full moon. They resemble the flash from a lighthouse and will light up nearby trees like a search light."

Sells for $184.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Phoenix Agritech (UK) Ltd., Lower Upton, Little Hereford, Ludlow, Shropshire, England SY8 4BB (ph 0584 711701; fax 0584 711478).

ATV-Pulled Drill

You can use your ATV to pull this new drill that comes in handy for filling in missed areas or seeding small acreages.

The Super Sow-Lite drill uses a ground-driven pegged roller system to meter the seed. The gearbox provides over 200 population settings. The drill's 16 coulters are raised and lowered by an electric motor, and when they are raised the seed supply is also shut off. Individual coulters can be raised if the full sowing width isn't required and can even be removed if you want to broadcast grass seed.

The price ranges from $2,800 to $5,100

Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly

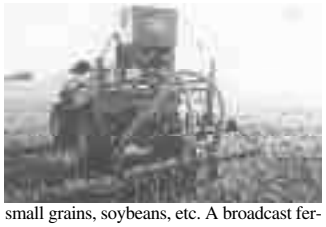
for a fully-equipped drill.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jordan Engineering, Sudbury, England.

Air Seeder For ATV's

Getting into corners is easy with this pneumatic seed drill that mounts on back of a 4-wheel ATV. It was designed by Peter Ridley, a student at Rycotewood College, Oxfordshire, England.

The seed hopper mounts on a steel frame that bolts onto the ATV's rear carrier rack. A tillage unit, consisting of 4 or 6 shanks and a light-duty cultivator, bolts onto brackets on the frame. An electric motor powered by the ATV's battery drives a fan which blows seed through hoses that lead to each shank. The planter driveshaft is ground-driven. Works great for planting grass seed,



small grains, soybeans, etc. A broadcast fertilizer spreader is being developed for use with the hopper.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Ridley, Rycotewood College, Priest End, Thame, Oxon, England OX9 2AF (ph 01844 212501).

New Combine Steers From The Front

The new Arcus combine, made by German manufacturer MDW, is unusual in that it has a front steering axle and rear main drive axle. It's equipped with twin sieve assemblies to cope with a high volume of material from its rotary threshing and separation systems. It's said to have a bigger grain tank than any other combine on the market, and it has a hydrostatic transmission that allows road speeds up to 25 mph.

The twin threshing rotors are located where the crop elevator normally would be, and the rotary separation cylinder is mounted low on the chassis, freeing up space in the body of the machine for the high capacity sieves and grain tank. It also allows the wide flotation tires to be tucked into the machine to keep its overall width down to a narrow 9 ft. 10 in.

On the road, the driver uses an accelerator pedal to control his speed. In the field, the transmission drives the rear wheels via a 3-speed gearbox (two for field use, one for travel). The front wheels are also powered, using individual hydraulic motors for permanent 4-WD traction.

Clean grain from each set of sieves is augered separately to either end of the grain tank for even filling. After passing through the 8-ft. 3-in. long threshing rotors and centrifugal separation cylinder, straw is discharged on both sides to the ground ahead of the combine's rear wheels - either gathered in a swath or chopped and spread.