

Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

Associate Editor Jim Houtsma recently attended the United Kingdom's largest farm show, the Royal Smithfield in London, England. The show is held every other year, usually in November. Hundreds of companies from all over Europe filled the exhibition halls with their latest machinery developments. Featured here are some of the new products that caught his eye.

Shock Absorbers For Front-End Loaders

Front-end loaders get banged up and down a lot during operation and also when the tractor is driven over rough ground. A new "shock compensating system" absorbs the stress and strain to reduce damage and make it easier on the driver.

Alo's "Soft Drive" for its Quicke loaders consists of two accumulator units.

Unit installs in about an hour on Quicke loaders. Requires drilling two holes in bearing box.

Sells for about \$500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trima Ltd., 33 Tatton Court, Kingsland Grange,



"Soft Drive" consists of two accumulator units.

Warrington WA1 4RR, England (ph 01925 821181; fax 01925 828378). U.S.: Alo North America, Box 824, Niagra Falls, N.Y. 14302-0824 (ph 905 354-4200; fax 6010).

Nifty Low-Cost Bale Caddy

You can move bales around all day without any tractor or truck with this nifty hand-pushed caddy designed to handle one 4 by 4-ft. round bale.

Agrimec Ltd's caddy is constructed of heavy-duty 3/16-in. thick galvanized metal. Its handle is fitted with a 3 1/2-ft. arm and 8-in. grapple hook that grabs and secures the bale. It has two 10-in. dia. pneumatic tires on front and two 6-in. castor wheels on back to allow quick, easy positioning of the unit.

To use, you simply tip the hauler forward, position it under the bale, hook the bale, then tip the unit backward and take off with it.

Sells for about \$325.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agrimec Ltd., O'Brien Road, Carlow, Ireland (ph 011 353 503 22400; fax 22022; E-mail: agrimec.@tinet.ie.



You position the hauler under the bale, hook it and take off.



Front axle on the Steyr features a single-spring suspension system.

Tractors Features New Suspension, Transmission

At least five European manufacturers have introduced new front wheel suspension systems for their tractors.

One of the companies, Steyr, was recently purchased by Case-IH, which plans to bring the innovative line of tractors to North America later this year.

Steyr tractors range from 48 to 150 hp and offer a unique front axle with single-wheel spring suspension system. It absorbs all bumps and bounces in fields and on roads, offers better steering and braking, and maintains the machine's stability at high speeds, according to the company. The suspension can be locked when precise control is required, such as when running a front-mount

cultivator, and ground clearance can also be adjusted.

The optional suspension system adds about \$3,100 to the cost of the tractors.

Steyr will also introduce a variable speed transmission for its tractors in the year 2000.

Allowing variable speeds from 0 to 30 mph, engine output will be transmitted partly hydraulically, but mainly mechanically. The operation of the system is controlled by an ultra high-tech electronic controller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Case Steyr Landmaschinentechnik AG, A-4300 St. Valentin, Austria (ph 011 43 74 35/500-0; fax 54 7 09).



Fan sucks hot air through a large opening under the burner, then forces it through the trailer's perforated drying floor.

"Go Anywhere" Grain Drying Wagon

This "go anywhere" grain drying wagon from Farrell Machinery consists of a conventional dual-axle trailer with a gas-fired dryer and fan mounted on the stretched drawbar up front.

The fan sucks hot air through a large opening under the burner, then forces it through the trailer, which is equipped with a perforated drying floor and a series of equally spaced vertical augers to continuously circulate grain.

During drying, augers mounted on a beam shuttle through the wagon at 10 minute intervals.

When drying is complete, the wagon is simply dumped to unload. It's loaded directly in the field with a combine or at the farm with an auger. It takes an hour to remove 4 points of moisture from the crop, the company says.

Two models are available: 25-ton capacity, which requires a 130 hp tractor, and 15-



A series of equally spaced vertical augers move back and forth across trailer bed at 10-minute intervals to stir up grain.

ton, which requires a 90 hp tractor.

They sell for about \$58,000 and \$81,000, respectively.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farrell Machinery, Ufford Place, Lower Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, England IP13 6DR (ph 011 44 1394 460518; fax 460619). **Profi International.**

Deere's Prototype Loader Tractor

There are more loader tractors with telescoping booms in Europe than you can shake a stick at, and Deere appears to be joining the fray with this unique-looking prototype displayed at the Smithfield Show.

Deere took over design and manufacturing rights for the tractor last year from Matbro, a U.K. material handler manufacturer.

It's powered by a 100 hp Deere PowerTech engine coupled with a four-speed synchromesh powershuttle transmission.

Lift capacity is 2.7 tons to 18 ft. and it has a turning radius of 10 ft., 7 in., according to Deere. When the vehicle is in transport mode, the boom nestles in a groove between the cab and hydraulic valve block housing.

You probably won't see the rig in North America, however. Deere officials told



Deere unveiled its prototype European loader tractor.

FARM SHOW it's intended only for the European market.

New-Style Bird Scarer

Here's the latest bird scarer to make its way from England to North America.

"The Peaceful Pyramid" was invented by Jane Lewis of Norfolk, England, who got tired of birds feeding on her 1,200 acres of feed grains and oilseeds and whose neighbors got annoyed with loud gas guns.

Lewis's reflecting 12-in. high pyramid rotates with a 12-volt motor and deflects light into the air in a way that confuses birds so that they lose their impulse to land and feed. It comes with clear triangles as well as red (to repel crows).

Each pyramid protects 8 to 10 acres of low-growing crops and about 2 acres of taller



Pyramid rotates with 12-volt motor.

crops. Battery keeps it spinning 8 to 10 weeks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fenant Farm Machinery, 545 West Hill Rd., Troy, N.H. 03465 (ph 603 242-6417).