

Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

Associate Editor Ben Schless recently attended the Agritechnica Show in Hannover, Germany. Thousands of companies from all over Europe filled the exhibition halls with their latest new products. Featured on this page are some of the new products that caught his eye.



Vending Machine Replaces Veggie Stand

This first-of-its-kind vending machine dispenses large bags of vegetables and fruit at roadside with no need for a human attendant. Bags are automatically filled with potatoes, carrots, corn, apples, etc. and then tied.

The first prototype, on exhibit at Agritechnica, was built for potatoes only. But the company says the concept should work with any bulk commodity.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Apullma Maschinenfabrik, Vechtaer Straße 81, D-49424, Lutten, Germany (ph 011 49 4441-9296; website: www.apullma.de; email: info@apullma.de).

Vending machine sells bags of potatoes without a human attendant.



Six-Person "Train-Style" Bike

Berg Toys has been making pedal-driven toys for many years. They recently introduced a new bike system that can be hooked together like train cars so you can have a six person, side-by-side bicycle. The attachable units come with adjustable height seating, lights, suspension, spoiler and even seats for kids who don't want to pedal.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Berg Toys, Postfach 1827, D-47516 Kleve, Germany (ph 011 49 800 2374-8697; website: www.bergtoys.net).



Side-by-side pedal bike is designed to carry a small crowd.

"Ring Blade" Cultivator

A first-of-its-kind cultivator uses a series of rotating rings rather than teeth to root out weeds.

Two rows of rings are placed at an angle so that the bottom edges of the rings cut into the soil. The first row has 2 1/2-ft. dia. rings, and the second row are a little under 2 ft. in height.

Unlike traditional shank-type cultivators, the "ring blade" machine doesn't leave any grooves in the soil and it breaks up the soil so there are fewer clumps. There's a row of smaller rings at the back of the cultivator to smooth out and crush any remaining clumps of soil.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, HEKO,



Large cutting rings turn over soil while smaller rings break up remaining clumps.

Konrad Hendlmeier, D-93107 Untersanding, Germany (ph 011 49 0945-3330; website: www.heko-landmaschinen.de).

"World Class" Luxury Seat For Tractors

Grammer Ag says its new seat for ag tractors, trucks and semis is like "floating on air." It has every comfort feature you can imagine, and then some.

It has a powered suspension system that automatically adjusts to the weight of the operator. The seat has forward and back, high and low adjustments, heating and cooling, adjustable back, lumbar support and lateral adjustments. Virtually any feature can be electronically controlled and stored in the seat's memory bank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: Grammer Ag Seating System, Postfach 1454,



Seat has features you won't find anywhere else, including heating, cooling and a memory.

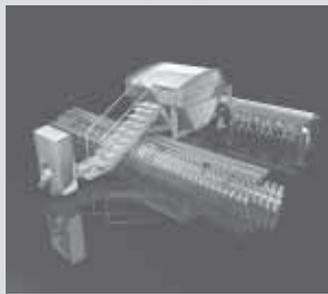
D-92204 Amburg, Germany (ph 011 49 9621 88087; website: www.grammer.com; email: GrammerHandel@grammer.com).

Seed Drill Prototype Offers Many Options

Kongskilde showed a new generation of seed drills designed for large farms. The new concept drills adapt to many different harrow combinations and feature an extra-large hopper with a wide access stairway.

The discs have pressure sensitive rollers that regulate seed depth but still have enough weight to keep the openers in the ground in the heaviest of soils. The initial designs have widths of 12 to 20 ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kongskilde Maskinfabrik A/S, Slaelskoervej 64, DK-4180, Soroe, Denmark (ph 011 45 5786-5000; website: www.kongskilde.com; email: mail@km.kongskilde.com).



20-ft. wide drill with a large hopper allows for continuous large volume planting.



Multi-baler compacts more hay into a smaller space, knotting each bale individually.

Revolutionary Baler Combines 6 Small Bales Into 1

You've never seen anything like this new Krone baler that combines up to six individually tied bales into one big bale on-the-go. It combines the speed of a big baler in the field with the convenience of small bales back at the barn.

Depending on the model, you can combine anywhere from 2 to 6 bales ranging from 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 ft. wide. Two strings hold the individual bales together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Krone Maschinenfabrik, D-48478, Spelle/Emsland, Germany (ph 011 49 5977-9350; website:



Bales can be 1/2 to 4 1/2 ft. wide depending on model. All six bales are tied together for easy transport.

www.krone.de; email: info.ldm@krone.de; U.S. Distributor, ph 901 842-6011).

Plastic Tire "Chains"

We've seen plastic used in many ways but never as chains - on tracks - for tractors and trucks. German company Felastec makes a full line of hard-plastic products including crawler tracks, large truck and tractor chains, scrapers, shovels, and sweeper blades.

The large plastic chains can reduce ground damage and are much lighter than metal tracks. They also require less maintenance.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Felastec, Wilhelm-Giese Straße 5, DE-27616, Beverstedt, Germany (ph 011 49 4747-9494; website: www.felasto-pur.de; email: kontakt@felasto-pur.de).



Plastic chains fit over almost any size tire or track improving traction and stability.

High-Reach Hedge Trimmers

Ever wonder how they trim those huge hedges that you see in Europe? Here's the "secret."

This STIHL hedge trimmer extends from 4 1/2 ft. to 8 1/2 ft. long. The cutting head rotates between 0 degrees and 90 degrees to easily trim tops and sides of tall hedges. Prices range from \$400 to \$560.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, STIHL Vertriebszentrale AG Co., Robert-Bosch-Straße 13, D-64807 Dieburg, Germany (ph 011 49 1803-671243; website: www.stihl.de; email: vertriebszentrale@stihl.de).



Cutting head rotates between 0 and 90 degrees to easily trim tops and sides of tall hedges.

Loader Attachment Rotates Pallets 90°

A small Dutch company came up with this lift-loader attachment that lets you rotate a bulk pallet bin 180 degrees, turning it upside down for dumping. Works great for handling any loose bulk material.

The company also makes a model that will rotate a box 180 degrees sideways for stacking.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, WIFO-ANEMA, Hegebeintumerdyk 37-9172, GP Ferwert, Holland (ph 011 31 518411318; website: www.wifo-anema.com; email: info@wifo.nl).



Loader attachment lets you rotate a bulk pallet bin 180 degrees, turning it upside down for dumping.