

Ground-Driven "Basket Weeder"

New-style ground-driven weeder uses two rows of steel baskets equipped with flexible, U-shaped steel fingers that dig into the ground to root out small weeds.

The two rows of baskets are connected by a chain drive, with the back row of baskets rotating twice as fast as the front. Working depth is adjusted by changing the position of bolts on the basket shafts.

A 4-row unit sells for \$3,500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kress & Co. GmbH, Osterbachstrasse 10, D-



74196 Neuenstadt-Stein, Germany (ph 06264 531; fax 06264 7728).

Ear Corn Picker Units For SP Forage Harvester

"It's a low-cost way to add extra ear corn to silage," says Gruber Landtechnik about the ear corn picker it designed for Claas self-propelled forage harvesters.

The system lets you chop two rows of corn and pick the ears off the other two rows to increase the content of high moisture in silage.

Two ear corn picker units equipped with bottom-mounted choppers are fitted to the center two rows on the Claas 4-row head. The entire corn plant is chopped on the outside two rows. A 6-row head with two picker rows is also available.

A 4-row unit sells for \$38,500.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gruber Landtechnik, D-84534 Ampfing, Postfach 1140, Germany (ph 0 86 36 50 20; fax 0 86 36 5 02 31).

Front-Mount Chopper For Round Balers

Many new round balers have choppers on them for making silage bales, especially in Europe. This new chopper mounts on front of your tractor, allowing you to make high-density silage bales even if your round baler doesn't have a chopping system on it.

Built by Greenland, the unit consists of the front half of a baler - pickup, chopping system, and deflector plates - mounted on wheels. It lays down an even swath for the baler to pick up, helping to make more even-shaped bales. Swath width can be varied to fit the baler's pickup width.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Greenland UK Ltd., Adderley Road, Mkt. Drayton, Shropshire TF9 359 (ph 01630 653501). (Farmer's Weekly)

Tractor Of The Future?

This futuristic-looking tractor made in Czechoslovakia got a lot of attention at Agritechnica in Germany.

The "Innotrac" is a prototype tractor that has a wide open, high visibility cab with two seats. The chassis came off a Zetor Z 9540. The tractor is scheduled to go into production next summer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Konsortium Innotech-Gregor, Studnickova 176, 551 01 Jaromer, Tschechische Republik, Czechoslovakia (ph 42 442 3467).



"Factory On Wheels" Pelletizes Crop Residue

One of the show stoppers at the German Agritechnica show was the "Biotruck 2000", a 33-ft. long, self-contained "factory on wheels" that compresses crop residue into pellets right in the field. The pellets can be fed to livestock or burned in heating plants.

The Biotruck can be used on a wide variety of crops including small grains, hay,

straw, grasses, etc. The machine can process about 8 tons per hour.

Sells for \$700,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Franz Haimer GmbH, Weiherstrabe 21, 86568 Igenhausen, Germany (ph 0 82 57 99 88-0; fax 0 82 57 18 50).

Front-Mount Round Bale Wrapper

You can wrap round bales on-the-go and also stack them with this new front-mount bale wrapper.

The "Multiwrap" allows you to wrap bales in the field or at the stacking area where you can use the same unit to stack them. Or, you can load trailers in the field with unwrapped bales, bring them to the yard, and wrap and stack them up to four high. Bales can be picked up from any angle. The tractor's 3-pt. hitch is free to haul additional bales.

The company also offers several models of baler-pulled wrappers that allow baling



and wrapping in one operation, as well as pull-type and 3-pt. mounted units that pick up and wrap bales on-the-go.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, NHK Keskus Oy, Puusepankatu 5, FIN 13110 Hameenlinna, Finland (ph 358 17 6120284).

New Transmission To Challenge Powershift

A new-style high-tech transmission that provides stepless, variable drive with single joystick control has been developed independently by three of Germany's top agricultural manufacturers. Two of the companies will have the transmission available on new lines of tractors this year.

Claas plans to use the transmission in its 200 to 300 hp 4-WD, bidirectional "Xerion" tractor (see page 24). Fendt, which produces Germany's top-selling tractors, will have its new "Vario" transmission in its 260-hp tractors this year. ZF, manufacturer of transmissions and components, was the third company to develop the new-style transmission. All say they worked on the transmission independently but came up with similar systems.

The transmissions provide the biggest challenge yet to the popular powershift transmission, say industry watchers.

At press time, Claas and ZF had released few details about their versions of the transmission. Fendt says its Vario transmission splits power between the mechanical and hydrostatic drives with a computer that selects balance, giving best efficiency for working speed. The transmission will be tuned for maximum efficiency at 4.4 mph plowing speeds, but can be varied to suit other applications.

Two ranges available. Work range gives stepless control up to 22 mph; travel range from 0 to 31 mph maximum.

Fendt say the transmission will cost about 7% more than a powershift model of comparable power.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Xaver Fendt GmbH & Co., Maschinen-und Schlepperfabrik, Johann-George-Fendt-Str. 4, D-87616 Marktobendorf, Germany (ph 08342 77-1; fax 08342 77-220).

High Velocity Chaff Spreader

This Swedish-made chaff spreader is equipped with a pair of high-velocity centrifugal fans that are powered by the combine's rotor shaft. The fans scatter straw uniformly up to 30 ft. wide even in high winds.

The hydraulic-powered fans take air into specially-designed inlets on the front side, sucking chaff into spreader plates that have impellers on the back side. The chaff spreader folds back out of the way for access to the sieves. Fits most makes of combines and types of straw choppers.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rekordverken Sweden AB, Ottum, S-535 92 Kvanum, Sweden (ph 46 0 511 701 00; fax 46 0 511 700 07).



Mini Round Baler And Wrapper

New mini round baler makes easy-to-handle 25-in. wide, 22-in. dia. round bales. A 3-pt. bale wrapper is also available.

Developed in Italy, the Wolvo R 500 baler lets you make bales in places you can't go with a full-size baler, including hillsides too steep for a conventional tractor. It may also be ideal for operators who can't justify the price of a conventional round baler.

The baler is equipped with net wrap to reduce the time required to wrap the bale. The net wrap is started by simply pulling a rope (automatic bale wrap is optional). The

baler makes 40-lb. straw bales, 60-lb. hay bales, and 100-lb. silage bales.

The wrapper has two motorized rotors that turn the bale. Loading, unloading, and cutting of the plastic film is done manually, and a lever is used to start and stop the bale wrapping process. "Horse breeders love mini silage bales because of their small size and the high quality of feed," notes the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wolvo Costruzioni Macchine Agricole, Via Veneto, 12/a, 46029 Suzzara (MN), Italy (ph 0376 51211; fax 0376 522215).