

Flat Rollers Cut Moisture Loss Behind Cultivator

In many parts of Italy, efforts to conserve soil moisture result in some unusual machinery.

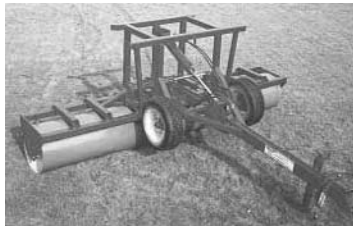
This set of "flat" rollers is designed to be pulled behind cultivators or other equipment to seal up worked ground to prevent moisture loss.

It folds neatly for road transport. When folded, the roller has a low center of gravity and a good weight distribution between tractor drawbar and the axle. When the machine is at work, the two sections of roller are closely spaced - there's no more than 3 in. of unrolled ground.

The two rollers have separate frames which hinge to the main frame. The main frame tips forward for transport and the two rollers pivot forward 90 degrees. Hydraulic cylinders fold the rollers back out into working position.

The manufacturer also makes lighter flat rollers that can be mounted directly to the back of cultivators instead of on a separate frame.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mainardi g. & C, Via Milano 38, 26029 Soncino (CR) (ph 374 84036).



Flat rollers can be hooked to a variety of machinery to seal up the ground after it's worked. They fold forward for easy transport.



Roller Flattens Big Straw Windrows

Bulky straw crops left in windrows behind combines in high-yielding fields can be compressed before baling with this tractor-mounted straw roller.

The roller fits into brackets bolted directly to the front of the baler tractor. A hydraulic cylinder lifts it for transport.

The roller weighs about 230 lbs. When it's in the down position, it floats independently over the windrows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sieve Services, Fen Lane, Long Bennington, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5ED United Kingdom.



Straw windrows that might otherwise be difficult to bale can be flattened right ahead of baler with this new front-mount roller.

Water-Powered Gate Opener

You can use water pressure from your farm or house to power this automatic gate opener that installs under the ground.

It consists of a hydraulic unit inside a box and a latch mechanism. No electricity is required. A pressure relief valve allows the gate to be manually opened or closed in case the water pressure fails. For cold weather areas, a frost kit is available that uses oil and compressed air instead of water to open the gate.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wautogate, Koeke Industries, P.O. Box 153, Taihape, New Zealand.



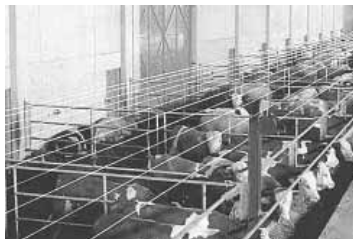
Water pressure powers the cylinder that activates this unique gate opener.

Electric Wires Help Keep Cows Quiet

An Italian dairy equipment company says dairymen can save money by helping their cows save energy. They introduced a system of electric wires aimed at stopping "bulling".

Constant mounting and physical activity uses up a lot of energy and risks injury to legs, hips and other skeletal areas. Keeping cows off each other's backs is stopped by a grid of wires stretched above the animals. It leaves cattle free to move underneath but gives them a shock if they start to mount each other. Standard fence chargers provide the power.

Once installed, the company says farmers are amazed at how much quieter a herd is. The system acts as a teacher so that the animals learn how to control themselves. The result is higher production.



Hot wires strung above the backs of cows keep them from wasting energy by mounting each other.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arienti, Via Grandi 10, 20093 Cologno Montese (Milano) Italy (ph 22532956; fax 22547104).

Boat-Mounted Water Weed Cutter

A hydraulic powered sickle cutter, shaped like an inverted "T" and fitted to the front of a 14 ft. aluminium boat, cuts weeds growing on the bottom, sides and banks of ponds. The boat is powered by a 2 cyl. diesel driving a jet, so there's no prop to become tangled.

The cutter height off the floor of the pond can be adjusted and the whole cutter turns 90 degrees to do banks. When traveling, the cutter tilts back so it is out of the water, allowing the boat to perform normally. Power comes from a hydraulic pump which powers both the motor which drives the blades (they are mechanically linked at the base) and also the cylinder that tips the cutter bar.

Weed growth, which can be accelerated by excess phosphates and other nutrients, can rob a pond of the oxygen needed to support life.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: Dragoni Costruzione Macchine, Via Enrico Toti, 1, Zorlesco Milano, Italy Tel: (0377) 89004.



Water weed cutter tilts 90 degrees either way for cutting weeds along banks. Removing weeds from ponds increases oxygen availability.

Mobile Dryer Can Handle 12,000 Bu./Day

The gold medal at the Italian Fieraagricola Show in Verona was awarded to Zanin for its big new Mobil Dry machine. Mobil Dry is a high capacity grain dryer which can be moved on its own trailer from site to site.

To contain the size within legal road limits, the unit has fold-up ducting on either side. The dryer can be linked to burners fueled by gas, LP, diesel or heating oil and requires an electrical supply. Drying capacity is substantial for a portable unit, especially for the largest model. Zanin claims the big dryer can handle as much as 12,000 bu. of grain per day.

The special trailer carries the dryer to the site and then tips it 90°, after which it needs to be prepared for work. The burner fits to the inlet ducts which are extended on one side while the ducts on the exit side lead to a high capacity extractor fan mounted on the top which draws out the wet air. Elevators up the side carry grain to the top. Hot air is drawn through the grain from one side to the other. The maximum temperature gradient occurs at the top of the dryer as the hot air is channelled up to the top by an internal baffle. Before leaving the dryer, cold air is drawn through the grain which further reduces moisture without requiring heat as well as cooling it before storage. The design of the dryer results in high fuel efficiency which Zanin claims provides a 30% saving over other mobile dryers.

The three available models are called the Mobil Dry 8, 10 or 16 with unit heights of 24, 27, or 36 ft.



Big new mobile dryer is transported with a trailer chassis that lowers it down to the ground for transport.



Followup: Zanil Flli, Via Marconi 15, 31050 S Capriano di Roncade, Treviso, Italy Tel: (0422) 707165; fax: (0422) 840914.