

# Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

FARM SHOW editors cover all major shows in the United States, Canada and foreign countries to keep you and other readers posted on latest new products. Featured here are just a few "best of the show" ideas which caught Editor Mark Newhall's eye at the recent Royal International Agricultural Show in Stoneleigh, England. The first Royal International Show was held in 1839. It's now one of the world's largest farm shows, attracting more than 1,300 exhibitors and more than 200,000 visitors, including almost 12,000 visitors from some 110 countries.



## New Bale Trailer Designed For Plastic-Wrapped Bales

You can load and haul up to 6 plastic-wrapped bales without danger of puncturing the plastic with the new "Bale Shifta" trailer designed by a British farmer.

The bale hauler has an open-ended cradle on each side that pivots down with the open end toward the ground and slips around both sides of the bale. Each side holds three bales. To unload, bales are lowered to the ground and the tractor is driven forward. "Until now the only way to move wrapped

bales without puncturing the plastic was with special front-end loader attachments. This trailer lets one man load and transport bales with just one tractor," says a representative of the manufacturer, Volac, Ltd., noting that the trailer works also works great for unwrapped bales.

Sells for about \$10,000.  
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Volac, Ltd., Orwell, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5QX (ph 0223 208021; tax 0223 207629).

## "On-The-Go" Bale Wrap Machine

The first commercial on-the-go bale wrapper for big round bales made its debut at the Royal Show.

(A year ago FARM SHOW featured the world's first on-the-go bale wrapper built by Pennsylvania farmer Lewis Zimmerman. It was built strictly for Zimmerman's own use.)

"You save money and time by doing two operations at once with the same tractor and, by wrapping immediately, more air is excluded from the bale, making better silage," says Richard Ruston, managing director of the manufacturer, Ruston Engineering Co.

The fully automatic bale wrapper is hitched in line directly behind the baler. When the bale is ejected, it triggers a microswitch on the bale wrapper that activates two front stub rollers. They lift the bale off the ground. Then the rollers start to rotate slowly and a wrapping arm applies layers of plastic to the bale. Once the bale is wrapped with a predetermined number of layers, the plastic is automatically cut and the fully-wrapped bale ejected out the back. While the bale is wrapping, the baler forms the next bale.

"It runs by itself but the operator has a control box in the cab with indicator lights that show progress of the wrapper. A manual override can be used to keep the bale from being ejected if, for example, you're running downhill. Also, the drawbar on the wrapper is hydraulically steerable with the control box to make it easier to maneuver

through gates and to allow the wrapper to be used without the baler," says Ruston.

Sells for about \$20,000. The company is looking for a North American distributor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruston's Engineering Co. Ltd., Brampton Road, Huntingdon PE18 6BQ (ph 0480 455151; fax 0480 52116).



## "Look Alike" Rubber-Tracked Tractor

"It's better than a Caterpillar," says Terry Hallam, spokesman for Track Marshall Ltd. about the company's new "look alike" rubber-tracked tractor that's almost identical to Caterpillar's Challenger except for the name painted on the side.

The new tracked tractor is actually built in Australia by Waltana, a small manufacturer that is challenging Caterpillar's patent on the new tractor design with a copy-cat machine (see FARM SHOW's Vol. 14, No. 1). Although Caterpillar and Waltana are now fighting a battle in court, the upstart company has started exporting its machine to England where it's sold under the Marshall name.

Caterpillar spokesman Steve Newhouse would not comment on the Waltana tractor because of the pending lawsuit. More than 1,000 Challenger tractors have been sold world wide and the company just introduced a new larger model with 55 more horsepower. The company is also reportedly testing smaller models but has no definite plans yet for their introduction.

Marshall tractor representatives say the Waltana tractor they're selling is actually a better tractor than the Challenger because of the drive system it uses on its belt. "It has positive drive teeth on the belt so it can't slip. Caterpillar's tractor uses more of a friction drive. They've had trouble with slippage," says Hallam, adding that the 200 hp. Marshall tractor is also 75 hp. smaller than the 275 hp. Challenger 65. Marshall and Waltana are reportedly testing an even smaller 150 hp. model.

The Marshall tractor has electro-hydraulic drive and is equipped with a 3-pt. and pto so it'll handle any farm implement. Features a tilt-up cab for easy access to all engine and drive line components. It sells for about \$140,000, which is 25% less than the price for a Caterpillar Challenger in England.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Track Marshall Ltd., Britannia Works, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 2EX England (ph 0427 612301; fax 0427 612309).

