

Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

Editor Mark Newhall recently attended the Agromek Show in Herning, Denmark and the RAI Show in Amsterdam, Holland. Thousands of companies from all over Europe filled the exhibition halls with their latest new products and ideas. Featured here and on the next two pages are some of the new products that caught his eye.



Moving at a slow crawl, battery-powered robot uses front-mounted rubber squeegees to scrape away manure.

Robot Manure Scraper

Robots are finding their way into barns with the introduction of this first-of-its-kind manure robot designed to work continuously scraping slats in hog or dairy barns.

Moving at a slow crawl, the fully-independent, battery-powered unit is fitted with rubber squeegees on front. The computerized unit senses obstacles as it moves around, working from the outside toward the middle. It moves slowly enough so animals can get out of its way. When it does hit something,

it simply backs up and works its way around.

When it needs recharging, it's programmed to work its way back to a docking station.

The company says it can be used in a variety of conditions. All components are tightly sealed in waterproof compartments.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joz B.V., Industrieweg 5, Postbus 20, Westwood, 1616 ZG Hoogkarspel, Netherlands (ph 011 31 228 56 65 00; fax 011 31 228 56 65 70).



Electric-powered "Robomow" senses the height of the grass and cuts only when necessary. It senses obstacles and works its way around them.

Robot Mower Debuts In Denmark

FARM SHOW was the first magazine in North America to report on robot mowers when the first one was invented 6 years ago in Belgium (Vol. 17, No. 3). We reported on them again a few years later when the Louisiana-based Poulan Weed Eater licensed the robot for the U.S. market (Vol. 18, No. 1).

We spotted this latest new robot mower at the Agromek in Denmark. And the first question that came to mind was: Why don't we see these mowers in every back yard?

The reason seems to be a combination of price and timing. People aren't quite ready for something so radical and the price of about \$2,000 is enough to stop people from taking a risk on new technology.

The new "Robomow" is similar to other

earlier machines. It weighs about 120 lbs. and is about 14 in. high and 43 in. long. The electric-powered mower automatically works its way around obstacles. If the yard is not fenced in, the owner buries a wire to set up a perimeter. The mower first works its way around the perimeter of the yard, and then works back and forth across it. It senses the height of the grass and cuts only when necessary.

When it's done cutting, or if it runs low on power, it plugs itself back into a charger unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Texas Robomow, Knullen 2, 5260 Odense S, Denmark (ph 011 45 6395 5555; fax 011 45 6395 5558; Website: www.texas.dk).



Pto-driven rock rake is equipped with raking fingers that work down to about 6 in. deep, pulling rocks to the surface and then windrowing them.

New-Style Rock Rake

"It's fast and easy to dump," says the manufacturer of this new-style rock rake from the Netherlands called the "Stonebear".

The pto-powered rig hooks to the tractor drawbar. The entire rear rock box lifts up high via 6-ft. lift cylinders to dump on top of rock piles or into pickups or trailers.

What makes the picker unique is the way the rake fingers work down to about 6 in. deep, pulling rocks to the surface and then windrowing them.

The 14-ft. wide machine shakes dirt off the rocks before depositing them into the rear hopper.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kongskilde Industries A/S, DK-4180 Soro,



Entire rear rock box lifts up high via 6-ft. cylinders to dump rocks.

Denmark (ph 011 45 57 86 50 00; fax 011 45 57 86 51 00; Website: www.kongskilde.com).

Add-On Seeder Plants Crops While You Combine

You can plant next year's crop as you combine with this new British seeder that mounts behind the header.

The "Autocast" system broadcasts seed right after the crop is cut. The combine then lays the crop residue back over the seed where it acts like mulch.

The ground-driven unit consists of a hopper, an electric blower unit, and a series of outlet nozzles that evenly and uniformly distribute seed across the width of the header.

The poly hopper has a capacity of about 154 lbs., typically enough for 20 acres of a small-seeded crop like canola.

Seed is metered by a ground-driven wheel. Its output can be adjusted from 6 1/2 up to 55 lbs. per acre (in about 2 lb. increments) simply by changing sprockets. Sensors and in-cab monitors show seed flow and detect low hopper level.

The main unit mounts on the header on an inverted T-shaped frame and bars mounted on back of the header support the seed "nozzles". Installation takes about 10 minutes and the system doesn't have to be removed when the header is taken off the combine.

The system has been used successfully in England to broadcast canola, pelletized fertilizer, turnips, mustard, kale, clover and grass..

The system sells for about \$6,800 (U.S.).



Ground-driven "Autocast" system mounts behind combine header and consists of a hopper, electric fan, and outlet nozzles.



A ground-driven wheel meters the seed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, G and E Agriculture Ltd., The Heath, Bluntisham, Huntington, Cambridgeshire, U.K. EE17 3LH (ph/fax 011 44 1487 841-432; E-mail Michael@woodlodge85.freeserve.co.uk.).