

Latest New Products, Ideas From Germany

Associate Editor Bill Gergen recently attended Germany's largest farm show - the Agritechnica in Hannover. More than 1,200 companies from 27 different countries filled the exhibit halls with their latest machinery developments. Featured here and on the following page are some of the new products and ideas that caught his eye.



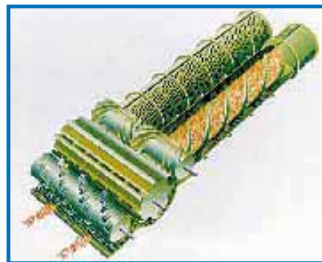
World's Biggest Combine Has No Straw Walkers

"It has more capacity than any other combine in the world," says Claas about its new Lexion 480. The big combine features a new-style threshing system that uses both conventional and rotary separation to harvest 1,500 bu. per hour or more.

Power is supplied by a Mercedes 375 hp diesel engine that's located behind the grain tank for quiet operation.

The threshing system includes a "pre-separation" rotor that mounts ahead of the existing combine cylinder and a spiraled "accelerating" drum behind the cylinder that aggressively feeds the crop to a pair of axial sieve drums that replace the straw walkers. Claas said it's goal in building the machine was to boost capacity yet still keep straw of baleable quality. Straw can be dropped out the back or chopped with a new-style, high capacity cross knife and shear bar that feeds chopped material in a high pressure spreader unit with dual oscillating nozzles.

Claas claims that the straw exiting the combine is of "baler quality" but if chopping is required, the straw can be directed



into a chaff and straw chopping unit that blows the material through two swiveling funnels to spread material over a 30-ft. width.

The luxury cab has a computerized control system that allows the operator to press a single button to select preprogrammed settings for fan speed, drum speed, concave gap, etc., required to harvest a particular crop.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Claas O.H.G., P.O. Box 1140, 33426 Harsewinkel, Germany.



First-Of-Its-Kind "Xerion" Tractor

One of the most talked about tractors in Europe is not even on the market yet - Claas's 4-WD, bi-directional "Xerion". The first prototype was developed in 1993. Commercial production is expected later this year.

A wide range of machinery can be mounted on the tractor's flatbed frame including sugar beet harvesters, liquid manure tanks, power harrow-drill combinations, and spray tanks. Maximum payload is 20 tons.

The cab can be mounted in three different positions - center rear, center front, and front offset. The cab can be rotated to face

forward or backward.

The operator can select from four different transmission modes on the new-style transmission (see story on next page) and there are four pto's - two at the rear, one in the center and one at the front. Other features include four-wheel steer, four-wheel crab, or four wheel opposite. Joystick steering of the rear axle is possible.

Sells for \$145,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Claas O.H.G., P.O. Box 1140, 33426 Harsewinkel, Germany.

Side-Eject "Non-Stop" Round Baler

You can bale non-stop with this revolutionary new side-eject baler.

Based on design work by a research professor from Braunschweig University in Germany, the baler essentially works like a conventional roller-type round baler except that one side of the machine is open. As the bale is formed, the end is "squeezed" out the side by the rollers - which are narrower at one end - and onto a side-mounted carrying arm that ties the bale and then slices it off at the side of the baler with a reciprocating knife. The bale never has to stop - it just keeps pushing the bale out the side.

The baler's conventional 6-ft. wide pickup is followed by an optional knife chopping system that feeds material into the bale chamber, which has 13 hydraulically-adjustable rollers.

An on-board computer controls the angle of the rollers which squeeze the bale out the



Photo courtesy Farmer's Weekly

side and also synchronizes the tying operation as well as the cut-off knife.

The baler may be ready for sale by next year. It's being developed in a joint project by Krone and Welger.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Welger GmbH, Gebr.-Welger-Strabe, D-38304 Wolfenbuttel, Niedersachsen, Germany (ph 05331 404-0; fax 05331 404-209).

"Mat-Making" Forage Harvester

Deutz-Fahr introduced its revolutionary new forage harvester that uses high-pressure rollers to compress hay into flat mats that dry fast.

The "Grassliner" lets you cut hay earlier at a higher moisture content and virtually eliminates leaf loss. Mats can then be baled with conventional round or square balers. The first prototype was built three years ago (Vol. 16, No. 1).

The self-propelled machine has a series of rotary cutting discs in front. As material is cut it's lifted into the combine by a conveyor and fed to rollers that make mats of varying thickness depending on the crop. The width of the mat can be infinitely varied from 5 to 7 1/2 ft. Because the compression of the hay squeezes out moisture, the mats dry quickly. Hay cut and compressed at 80 percent moisture can often be baled later the same day.

Powered is supplied by a 240 hp Deutz



diesel engine.

The forage harvester sells for \$91,000. A 9-ft. cutterhead sells for \$8,820.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Deutz-Fahr Erntesysteme GmbH, Kodelstrabe 1, 89415 Lauingen, Germany.



New "Agrotion" Tractor From Deutz-Fahr

Deutz-Fahr's new Agrotion series tractors are offered in 11 models ranging from 68 hp to 145 hp.

The tractors feature a product module design. Even the smallest model has a big cab with a great all-around view, enough room for a passenger seat and it even has a glass roof. The tractors are powered by water-cooled 4 or 6-cylinder Deutz engines and come with either a 3 or 4-stage powershift transmission. The engine is equipped with a new high-pressure injection system. Each

cylinder has its own injection pump, allowing the engine to operate with better combustion and higher performance.

Three different front-drive axles are available, all with fingertip gear change for all-wheel drive and differential locking. If desired, the gears can be changed automatically in response to steering angle, speed, and slip.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Deutz-Fahr Agrartechnik GmbH, Cologne, Germany (ph 23 08 1995).