

Latest New Products From England's Smithfield Show

Senior Editor Bill Gergen recently attended the United Kingdom's largest farm show, the Royal Smithfield in London, England. The show is held every other year, usually in November. Hundreds of companies from all over Europe fill the exhibition halls with their latest machinery developments. Featured here are some of the new products that caught his eye. Our thanks to David Cousins of Farmers Weekly Magazine (www.farmersweekly.com) for his help with photos.

Automatic Fencer

This new fencer makes unrolling netting or woven wire a much safer and faster job.

The Quickfencer unroller and tensioner mounts on a tractor 3-pt. or front-end loader. It can carry up to three 100-yard long rolls of netting as well as one roll of barbed wire. Or it can be used on heavier woven wire.

The machine can work in either direction so you can work away from corners. The posts are knocked in after all the wire netting is erected.

Sells for \$2,200.

The company has also developed an attachment for rewinding wire.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Rawcliffe, 1 Sykes Cottage, Longsight Road, Copster Green Blackburn, BB1 9ER (ph 011



Quickfencer unroller and tensioner works in either direction so you can work away from corners.

44 01254 245337 or 07931 511090; email: info@quickfencer.co.uk; website: www.quickfencer.co.uk.

Swing Arm "Head Holder"

Cattle held in a livestock chute can't move their head from side to side if a chute is fitted with this new swing arm "head holder." It bolts onto the front of the chute and is easy to remove when not in use. The operator uses a handle attached to a ratchet to set the holder's position.

The rubber-lined scoop extends up to the animal's ears and greatly reduces its ability to move its head from side to side. Makes it easier to work on eye treatment, ear tagging, implants, etc. It also helps prevent animals from going down while in the chute.

Sells for \$680.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ritchie Equipment, Carseview Road, Suttieside,



Rubber-lined restrainer keeps animal from moving its head.

Forfar, Scotland DD8 3EE (ph 011 44 01307 462271; fax 01307 464081; email: sales@iae.co.uk; website: www.iae.co.uk).

Portable Walk-Over Gate

Here's a nifty way to step over an electric fence. It's a portable "walk-over" that can easily be carried by one person so it can be used on temporary fences.

The triangular base has three metal spikes that stick into the ground. A horizontal plastic tube encloses the electric wire to keep walkers from getting a shock. The walker steps up on a lightweight platform and grabs a handle to help himself over the tube.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Bailey, Greenway Bank Farm, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, England.



Walker steps on platform and grabs handle to help himself over tube.

Off-Road Mountainboarding Park

You can make some extra money by turning your farm into an outdoor "mountainboarding" park, says Maxtrack. The company has been developing and promoting on-farm mountainboarding centers all over England and Ireland. According to the company, a relatively modest center near a town or city will attract plenty of paying visitors.

The idea is to get people to come and rent your mountainboards and ride all day long on tracks that you carve out of your hills and slopes. Or, customers can bring their own mountainboards and pay you for the right to use them on your land.

Off-road mountainboards, which look somewhat like snowboards, are popular in Europe and the company sells a variety of models. Equipped with 8-in. pneumatic wheels, the boards are able to negotiate rough dirt tracks. Your feet fit inside a pair of adjustable bindings.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maxtrack, New Rock, Kempley Road, Dymock, Glous, England GL18 2BB (ph 011 44 0870 242 7626; fax 01531 890 950; email: info@maxtrack.com; website: www.maxtrack.com).



On-farm mountainboarding courses attract paying visitors.

Equipped with 8-in. pneumatic wheels, boards can negotiate rough dirt tracks.



Small Square Bale Buncher

Mike Faulkner and Nico Blankers knew they had a ready market for small square bales. They also had access to about 400 acres of hay ground. What they didn't have was an easy way to handle the bales.

"We were seeing lots of 'wanted' ads for small square bales, but not many for 'hay available'," explains Faulkner. "Older operators were retiring, and younger operators were moving on to big square bales. We saw a gap in the market, but neither Nico or I were interested in slinging thousands of bales around."

Then they saw an article in a Dutch magazine about a Spanish-built small bale handling system. The Arcusin Multipack A14 picks small bales up off the field, packs 14 together, and ties them up into one bundle which it drops back onto the field.

"With the Multipack, the baler can go at full speed, never waiting for a wagon to be hooked or unhooked," says Faulkner. "That was important this year with the bad weather we had. We never had a full day."

As fast as the baler goes, the Multipack kept up with it. Faulkner estimates that one Multipack could handle about a baler and half of output.

"It's pretty simple to operate and maintain and nothing much to go wrong," says Faulkner. "It's all hydraulic driven with very few electrical parts. The main thing that can go wrong are the electrical switches, and they



Buncher picks small bales up off field, packs 14 together, and ties them up into one bundle which it drops back onto field.

are readily available off the shelf."

Faulkner and Blankers turned to Jeff Stewart at Ed Stewart's Garage and Equipment Ltd., to import the \$85,000 (Canadian) unit. Stewart is impressed with the machine, its design and construction. He thinks it will be attractive to people doing custom work or baling large volumes for resale.

"Where this shines is less labor to handle hay, and it uses a twine tying system similar to balers," says Stewart. "Competitors use steel banding. With this, there's no concern over hardware or handling. Anybody can cut twine."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Stewart, Ed Stewart's Garage & Equipment Ltd., Box 10, Erin, Ontario Canada N0B1T0 (ph 519 833-9616; fax 519 833-2253; email: stewartsequip@sympatico.ca).

Loader-Mounted Bunk Scraper

Dairyman Albert O' Neill made this scraper attachment for his loader tractor to clean waste feed out of bunks. The scraper, which attaches to the loader frame, floats laterally on springs and swings front-to-rear on a greaseable pivot point. It has 8-in. of side-to-side travel. As a result, the head always stays centered in the bottom of the trough.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Albert O' Neill, Artigarvan, Strabane, Co Tyrone, England.

Attached to loader frame, scraper floats laterally on springs and swings front-to-rear on a greaseable pivot point.



Wind-Driven Bird Scarer

This wind-driven bird scarer has 8 counter-rotating blades that glint in the sunlight to scare off birds. There are two sets of propellers, with each set having four blades. Each set rotates in the opposite direction. A simple hammer mechanism on some models makes a repetitive clanging sound as the blades hit a metal disc. Compact models designed for nurseries, orchards, and large gardens are available. All moving parts run on ball bearings, and all models can be serviced with basic work shop tools.

Models sell for \$520 to \$730.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grain

Box Agricultural Supplies, The Pad-dock, North End Meldreth, Royston, Hertfordshire, England SG8 6N7 (ph 011 44 01763 260380; fax 01763 263350; email: ian@grainbox.co.uk; website: www.grainbox.co.uk).

Two sets of propellers rotate in opposite directions.



Solar-Powered Automatic Gate

Most automatic gates try to open the gate using leverage at the hinged end of the gate, which requires a lot of power. This new gate opener uses a wheel-mounted unit to pull the gate open from the other opposite end. Solar energy provides plenty of power, with no need for outside electricity.

A 75-watt solar panel charges a battery mounted inside a box attached to the wheel. The battery operates an electric motor, which drives the wheel. A remote control is used to open and close the gate.

Sells for \$3,500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A1 Access Limited, Unit 8c, Hybris Business Park, Crossways, Dorchester, England DT2 8BG (ph 011 44 01305 854990; fax 01305 851983; email: Peter@a1access.org.uk; website: www.a1access.org.uk).



Unit pulls gate open from la tched end.