

Best New Ideas From Germany



When pigs, immediately at birth, head for radiant heat lamp, they activate the alarm.

Pig Birth Alarm

"I've saved a minimum of 2 to 3 pigs per sow per year in the two years I've used this alarm," says West German hog farmer Karl Muller, who's new farrowing alarm just came on the market.

The alarm consists of a round platter 1½ in. thick and 9 in. in dia. with a spring-loaded, moveable disc on top. When a newborn pig steps on the disc he depresses it, triggering a switch that sets off a bell alarm.

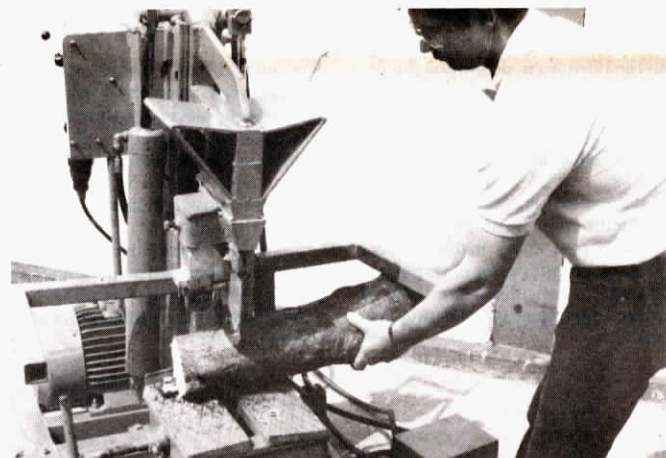
"The first thing a pig does when born is to head for light and heat so the trick is to place a radiant heat lamp over the alarm. The first pig born heads straight for the light, triggering the alarm," says Muller. "You can mount the bell anywhere on the

farm. By arriving quickly, you can save pigs the sow might otherwise damage and help if there are any birth difficulties."

Any number of alarm discs can be hooked up to one bell to monitor an entire farrowing house. As Muller demonstrated at the DLG Exhibition, even if the alarm fills up with liquid and dirt it will still send its signal.

The alarm comes with 65 ft. of cord, and a bell. It sells for \$98. Additional alarms to hook into the main cord sell for \$65. The heat lamp is not included.

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Wood knife fits over splitting wedge. Cuts cleanly through wood up to 8 in. in dia.

Hydraulic "Wood Knife"

A new hydraulic knife that slices through wood much faster than a chainsaw and almost as cleanly is attracting a lot of attention from wood burners all over Europe.

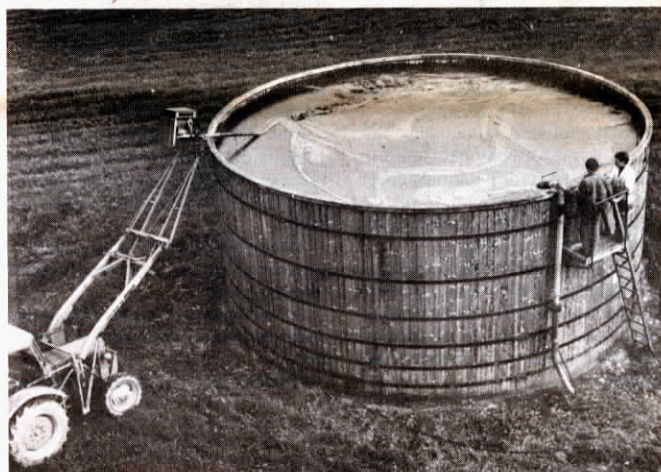
Norbert Bernholz, Willebadessen, West Germany, builds a versatile line of wedge-type log splitters for tractor 3-pt.'s, tractor loaders and free-standing platforms. Now he has added a heavy-duty steel knife that fits a standard wedge and cuts easily and cleanly through wood, even across the grain.

"You can cut off small chunks and burn them that way, or cut off larger chunks and split them with the wedge," explains Bernholz.

The knife has an 8-in. blade that'll cut through any type of wood up to 7 or 8 in. in dia. It'll mount either on a tractor 3-pt., on a platform powered by an electric motor, or on a tractor loader. Mounted on the tractor loader, the splitter can be maneuvered into position over big logs laying flat on the ground, or swung into the air for trimming trees.

The wedge splitter, outfitted with the cutting knife, sells for \$1,280.

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Electric slurry stirrer is mobile enough to unplug most tanks or pits.

Sludge-Buster For Slurry Tanks

Above-ground slurry tanks that have had to be abandoned because of heavy crusting and sludge build-up are now being opened up with a new loader-mounted sludge buster that reaches right over the top of tanks.

The electric-powered "Electromixer" will reach into tanks with sides as high as 13 ft., or it can be mounted on top of the side walls of tanks that are built higher. It can also be used on below ground or ground level pits.

"We've got 7½, 10 and 15 hp. mixers, all powered by electric motors. The electric cord simply runs down the loader to the ground," says Joseph Hugger, of Reck Manufacturing, the manufacturer. "Because the mixer is

mounted on a loader, you can move it around the tank for a thorough agitating job."

The Electromixer's 25-in. dia. propeller is mounted on a 14-ft. shaft. The mixer can also be equipped with several small mixing screws in place of the one large blade.

Reck also produces a 3-pt. mounted sludge buster and an air-powered slurry mixer that uses air to agitate and aerate liquid manure. The loader-mounted mixer sells for around \$3,500.

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