

New Products From Europe

(Continued from cover page)



New Overtrack 100 features reversible operation, with both front and rear 3 pt. and pto.

Radio-Controlled Tractor

First in the world to market a radio-controlled farm tractor is the Collard Company, headquartered in Bouzy, France. Its new Overtrack 100 represents, so far as we know, the first commercially available farm tractor that can be completely controlled by radio and laser automatic pilot, allowing you to sit in your farm office and, with the aid of a TV screen, control the driverless tractor out in the field as it plows, disks, plants, sprays or whatever.

"If money is no object, we can have custom-designed working models in production and delivered in a matter of months," sales manager Michel Collard told FARM SHOW. Production models are slated to roll off the assembly line in 1985. They'll be available with complete radio control of the driverless tractor from a farm office (at about \$100,000 for a 100 hp tractor) or in lower-cost models which require a human driver but have special radio-controlled conveniences.

For example, in hooking up to a 3-pt. implement, the driver can walk to the rear of the tractor and, by pushing buttons on a hand-held remote radio control, inch the tractor back and steer it, as needed, into position to hook onto the implement. Once hooked, he can push other buttons to raise the implement and activate the pto for a test run to make sure all is okay before climbing back into the driver's seat. Other key features include:

- Hydrostatic power transmission on all four wheels.
- Automatic leveling of the tractor (side to side and front to back) on hills.
- Your choice of steering — front wheels only, all four wheels, or "crab" steering.
- Adjustable field travel height of the tractor to ensure clearance of taller crops.
- A reversible cab for reverse operation.



Andre Collard, founder and president of the Collard Co., developer of the first radio-controlled tractor.

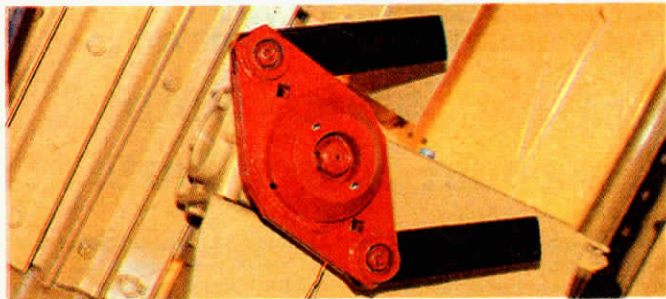
tion. The seat base, steering wheel and dashboard all rotate as a single unit.

- Standard front and rear 3-pt. implement hitching, and pto.

The Overtrack 100 can be used with all conventional implements. Its bed can be equipped with a hydraulically-operated dump box to convert the tractor into a truck.

Collard notes that remote radio and laser control features are engineered into the tractor's hydrostatic drive, steering and other components and can't be retrofitted to equip conventional existing tractors for remote control. The tractor on display, powered by a 90 hp Deutz engine, had a maximum driverless control range of up to 1¼ miles. However, models slated for introduction early next year will be equipped for longer distance remote operation. Retail cost of the 100 hp Overtrack is right at \$60,000, including front and rear 3-pt. and pto, and remote radio control.

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In Europe, with less material to chop, up to 6 and 8 row corn heads are being factory-equipped with stalk-chopping knives requiring 7 to 10 hp per row.

HARVEST AND CHOP STALKS IN ONE OPERATION

Corn Heads Equipped With Stalk Choppers

Here's a "first" from Europe you'll be seeing at fairs and farm shows in the U.S. and Canada in the months ahead — corn heads equipped with built-in stalk choppers, allowing you to do two jobs in one trip.

All major makes of combines at the SIMA show — including Deere, IH, Massey, New Holland and Claas — sported chopper-equipped corn heads.

"They're catching on fast," reports Didier Terme, of the S.A.F. Farge Co., Ruede Assier, Feurs, distributor of the Bisco header-chopper made in Italy. Available for most makes of combines, it features reel-type choppers for each row that resemble reel-type lawnmowers.

The other manufacturer of chopper-equipped corn heads is the Geringhoff Co., of Ahlen (Westfalia) West Germany. Available throughout Europe for most major brands of combines, it features one twin blade flail-type chopper per row. The stalk choppers, built into the underside of the header, require from 7 to 10 hp per row. Some are made to adjust independent of the header for height of cut, and others raise up and down with the header as it's raised or lowered. Available in 4 to 8 row models, the stalk-chopping feature is built in at the factory and, in most cases, can't be economically retrofitted to existing headers.

In checking with major domestic suppliers, FARM SHOW has learned

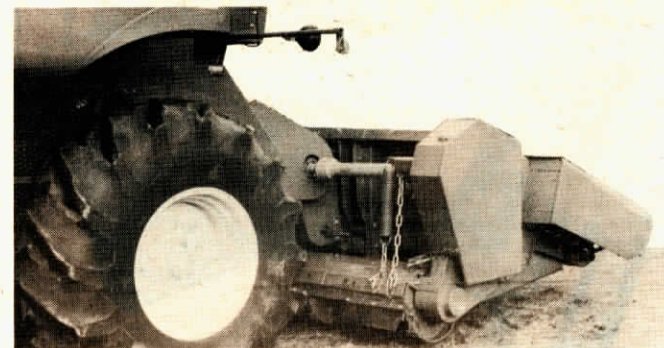


Flail-type stalk chopping knives on underside of a 6-row head for IH combines.

that Claas of America will have chopper-equipped corn heads available for the 1984 harvest on a limited basis.

The stalk-chopping attachment will be available on new 4 (30 or 40 in. width) and 6 row (30 in.) heads, and will also retrofit to newer existing 4 and 6 row Claas and Ford heads, according to R.H. "Bob" Brown, product specialist.

"With a mounting adapter kit, such as the one made by Bish Mfg., Giltner, Neb., our new Claas chopper-headers can be mounted on most makes and models of combines. The flail chopper for each row, and the header itself, adjust independently for height. The stalk-chopping features requires about 7 hp per row and adds about \$2,600 to the cost of a 6 row header," according to Brown.



This header on an IH 1460 is equipped with a reel-type stalk chopper which follows ground contour independently of the corn head.