

## Horse Progress Days Highlights

The annual Horse Progress Days are packed with demonstrations of large and small horse-drawn equipment. This year the traveling show was in Lancaster County, Penn. Next year's show is in Michigan. Here are a few highlights from this year's show. For expanded coverage, visit the autumn issue of *The Draft Horse Journal* ([www.drafthorsejournal.com](http://www.drafthorsejournal.com)) which generously shared the photos on this page.

### High Pressure, Big Boom Sprayer

The 200-gal., 45-ft. boom sprayer from Fisher's Sprayer Mfg. has two 18-ft. side booms with breakaways at 9 ft. A rear boom covers 8 ft. Cables support the outside booms, folding them in for transit. The torsion axle winch lifts the boom up to 6 ft., giving full clearance over most crops.

A 2-horse hitch is recommended for the sprayer, which uses a 9 hp. Robin engine with a 33 gpm diaphragm pump. Sprayers are also available in a 300-gal. model and with 30-ft. booms.

The sprayer is priced at \$6,800.



**Sprayer has two 18-ft. side booms and a rear boom that covers 8 ft.**

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fisher's Sprayer Mfg., 25 Old Leacock Rd., Ronks, Penn. 17572 (ph 717 768-7619).

### 1,300-Gal. Liquid Manure Spreader

The big liquid manure spreader from Els Mfg. delivers any slurry that can be pumped into the all-aluminum tank. It spreads the slurry up to 20 ft., depending on the draft team's walking speed. The ground-driven system uses a valve gate that can be opened from the operator's seat. The slurry drains out and into a tapered spread pan where spinning blades throw it out and away.

Design features include rubber cushion vibration dampers under the tank and a tandem floating axle to soften the ride over rough ground. Tanks are also available in steel and in various sizes. Prices range from



**Big tank spreads slurry up to 20 ft., depending on draft team's walking speed.**

\$4,000 to \$5,200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Els Mfg., 5270 Amish Rd., Kinzers, Penn. 17535 (ph 717 442-8569).

### Prototype Litter Slinger On Display

Els Mfg. showed a prototype litter slinger that's designed to handle any kind of loose manure, from fresh dairy manure to chicken litter or compost. Twin augers move the litter. One auger moves material from the rear to the front. Here it passes into the second auger that carries it to the rear where it is dropped into a tapered pan. Flails with weighted tips spread the material.

The litter slinger is powered by a 20 hp. Honda engine with a 10 gpm hydraulic pump. The company plans to offer the unit in sizes from 700 gal. to 1,100 gal., with prices starting at around \$10,800.



**Powered by a 20 hp. engine, litter slinger uses flails with weighted tips to spread material.**

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Els Mfg., 5270 Amish Rd., Kinzers, Penn. 17535 (ph 717 442-8569).

## Sweet Corn Planter Does It All

A 3-pt. mounted, 2-row sweet corn planter does everything but till the ground. Forward mounted furrow units make two 6-in. deep trenches for the seed to be planted into. The row units are generally rebuilt Deere 7000 models with finger pickups or an optional vacuum meter. The vacuum meter also allows the planter to be used on other crops with different seed sizes.

Once the seed has been planted, the machine lays down a 5-ft. wide plastic sheet over the seed trenches. It also sprays herbicides beneath the plastic and at bed edges. The plastic-covered trenches allow seedling to emerge. The plastic is lightly perforated to let air and moisture pass through. When plants begin to push against the plastic, a winder is used to remove it. The method allows growers to have sweet corn ready for the 4th of July.

The 2-row unit price starts at \$5,550. A pull-type with an engine-powered system



**Once seed has been planted, sweet corn planter lays down a 5-ft. wide plastic sheet over the top.**

starts at \$7,050. The plastic layer is easily removed to use the planter/sprayer units by themselves.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, JM Shirk Mfg., 459 Peach Rd., Ephrata, Penn. 17522 (ph 717 721-3383).

### Lifter/Wrapper Clears Plastic

The Toddco lifter/wrapper clears plastic from 4-ft. beds. Once vines or stalks have been cleared from the top of the plastic, the lifter/wrapper rakes the plastic out of the dirt. It then wraps it on the reel at the rear of the 8-ft. long, 5-ft. wide machine. The lifter/wrapper sells for \$2,550.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nolt's Midwest Produce Supplies, 3160 140th St., Charles City, Iowa 50616 (ph 641 228-4496; [noltsmidwest1@earthlink.net](mailto:noltsmidwest1@earthlink.net)).



**Toddco lifter/wrapper clears plastic from 4-ft. beds.**

### Walk-Behind Seeder Plants Through Plastic

The Champion seeder from Stutzman Mfg. is ideal for planting green beans in plastic-covered rows. It was designed with input from Yoder's Produce Supplies. It uses an Earthway seed box and seed plates. It is available with a steel front wheel or can be equipped with a rubber wheelbarrow wheel.

The planting wheel is all steel and equipped with spikes that penetrate the plastic and the soil at 7-in. intervals. A flap on the end remains closed as the spike enters the soil and then opens to release the seed as it begins to withdraw.

The Champion Seeder is priced at \$579.60. While it can be used with other large seeds in addition to beans, it is not recommended for small seeds.



**Walk-behind seeder is ideal for planting green beans in plastic-covered rows.**

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Yoder's Produce Supplies, 9599 Apple Creek Rd., Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627 (ph 330 695-5900).

## European Designed Horse-Drawn Equipment

The Luxembourg non-profit research group Schaff mat Päerd (Working with Horses) designs innovative horse-drawn equipment. They recently announced the Kombi-Roll 2.0, a crumbling and leveling roller for seedbed preparation that uses high tensile steel in its frame. The rear frame is a 2-in. solid round bar that counterbalances the shaft carrier at the front.



**Kombi-Roll Seedbed Preparation**

"The draft line going through the axle center of the roller minimizes the load on the horse," says Paul Schmit at Schaff mat Päerd. "Scandinavian-style articulating traction shafts follow the alternating movement of the horse's shoulders."

After initial testing, Kombi-Roll 2.2, a triple roller system with a working width of just over 6 ft., was devised for pasture



**Kombi-Roll Pasture Preparation**

renovation. Later it was also used for seedbed prep. The 2 extra rollers are mounted in a frame that allows them to bracket the original roller and mount to it with a ball-type hitch. This allows the 2 units to flex separately over the terrain with no impact on the horse.

"The technologically advanced rollers result in a price estimate a little over \$2,000 for the single roller and around \$5,000 for the Kombi-Roll 2.2," says Schmit. "If there is sufficient demand, it will be manufactured in cooperation with the Equi-Idea Company of Verona, Italy. ([www.noieilcavallo.org](http://www.noieilcavallo.org))."

Another new machine is the Kombi-Setz 1.0, a potato planter prototype based on a small planter from the Italian manufacturer Spedo. "It was designed to be used with



**Kombi-Roll Potato Planter**

small tractors and walk-behind tractors," says Schmit.

The planter uses the 3-wheel Mono-Rad Concept 1.0 forecart (Vol. 40, No. 1). The single steering wheel and frame of the Mono-Rad attach directly to the 2-wheel planter.

For horse-drawn use, the ground-drive transmission was completely redesigned. The hopper/planting assembly was fitted with a new tubular frame. The changes combined with larger (36-in.) wheels ensure a single horse can provide needed pulling power.

The single pass planter opens the row, places the potatoes at a set spacing, and then closes the row. The wheels with traction tread tires provide sufficient torque to drive the chain conveyor and the chain transmission

system via the freewheel hubs.

The planter, including the Mono-Rad, forecart is 33 in. wide with a length of 104 in. and an empty weight of 487 lbs. The hopper has a capacity of about 2 1/2 cu. ft. The spring-loaded disc hillers have a maximum down pressure of 55 lbs.

"We plan to follow this planter with a 3-row precision vegetable planter," says Schmit.

A prototype compost spreader is also under



**Prototype Compost Spreader**

development. Initial field tests were carried out in late October with results to be released in early November.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Schaff mat Päerd, 27, rue de Brouch, L-7481 Tuntange, Luxembourg ([schaffmatpaerd@pt.lu](http://schaffmatpaerd@pt.lu); [www.schaffmatpaerd.org](http://www.schaffmatpaerd.org)).