

# Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

Editor Mark Newhall recently attended the SIMA farm show in France, where some 300,000 people flocked to view nearly 2,000 exhibits. The show is held every other year, usually in early March. Featured here are some of the new products and ideas shown at this year's show. Most of the companies featured are looking for North American distributors or manufacturers.



Bale chamber is divided into two sections. In "baling" position, the upper section is fixed to bottom section of rollers to create a normal circular bale-forming chamber.



Binder-Wrap unit attaches to front of baler and wraps three 20-in. wide strips of cling-type plastic on each side of bale.

## First-Of-Its-Kind Baler Also Wraps In Plastic

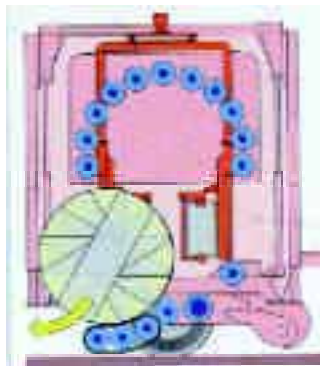
A first-of-its-kind round baler that also wraps the entire bale tightly in plastic was recently unveiled by a Norwegian company and was featured in the British magazine *Profi*.

The company, Gjerstad Agma, says its prototype machine - called the "BalerWrapper" - has been looked at by a number of major manufacturers. The company has built its first working prototype and obtained a patent. Now it's looking for a company to build and market the new-style machine.

Silage bales have caught on big time in Europe over the past 10 years and the practice is spreading rapidly in North America. At the current time, it generally takes two machines and two tractors to make a tightly wrapped silage bale.

Norwegian inventor Jens Oistad's goal was to combine baling and wrapping in one machine. His solution was to divide the roller-type bale chamber into two sections. The upper 11 bale forming rollers are mounted in a frame which is lifted up by hydraulic cylinders. When the machine is set to the "baling" position, the upper section is fixed rigidly to the bottom section of rollers to create a normal circular bale-forming chamber. Once the bale is made, it is tied with twine.

Next, instead of ejecting the bale as normal, the upper part of the chamber is lifted up and the wrapping unit moves into place. The lower section of rollers becomes the wrapping turntable. Two rolls of plastic pivot around the bale as it's rotated by the rollers so that the whole bale, including the



Once bale is made, the upper part of chamber is lifted up and the lower section of rollers becomes the wrapping turntable.

ends, is tightly wrapped.

To eject the bale, the lower section of rollers drops down hydraulically, laying the bale gently onto the field so that the plastic does not get punctured.

Oistad says the single machine will cost much less than buying both a baler and wrapper and that by wrapping the bale instantly, you stop any fermentation that might start in the unwrapped bale as it sits in the field waiting to be wrapped.

New Holland, Claas and Deere have expressed interest in the machine. Oistad hopes to have a machine on the market in two years. (Reprinted from *Profi International, Goblands Farm, Court Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN 11 OEB United Kingdom*)

## Battery-Powered Manure Scraper

"It's like a little robot," says the manufacturer of a new battery-powered manure scraper that's not connected to any chains or other mechanisms. You just put it in the gutter and let it go.

It's driven by two motorized wheels powered by an electric motor. It scrapes in one direction, then the blade lifts out of the way for the return trip. Adjustable rubber wings automatically adapt to rough surfaces.

Works in any cement gutter. No need for a guide rail of any type. Working hours can be programmed into the unit. Power is supplied by two rechargeable batteries.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Miro, 12 route de Laviron, 25510



Scraper is driven by two motorized wheels powered by an electric motor.

Pierrefontaine-les-Varans, France (ph 33 03 81 56 18 00; fax 33 03 81 56 02 82).

## "Binder Wrap" For Round Bales Replaces Twine

"To our knowledge, it's the first plastic wrap for round bales that's designed to replace twine for tying bales," says Kurt Madsen, the Danish farmer who invented "Binder-Wrap". It's an attachment that fits any round baler and wraps a bale tight enough to hold it together. As a bonus, the plastic also protects bales from rain and snow.

The Binder-Wrap unit attaches to the front of the baler. Once a bale is completed, a 20-in. wide strip of cling-type plastic feeds out of the Binder-Wrap unit. First, one half of the bale receives three wraps. Then the unit moves to the other side of the bale and makes three wraps there. Madsen says the

new plastic wrapping process, which is computerized to run at the touch of a button, is "much faster than wrapping with twine".

Two braking wheels stretch the film tightly around the circumference of the bale. Once the bale is wrapped, the wheels lock, causing the plastic to tear off.

Madsen says the unit will pay for itself in twine savings alone. It sells for about \$6,500.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Binder-Wrap A/S, D. Lauritzsensvej 8, DK-6700 Esbjerg, Denmark (ph 00 45 75 12 15 22; fax 00 45 75 12 78 86).

## Brush-Type Mower-Conditioner-Spreader

Full-scale commercial production has begun on the Vicon 2400 and 2800 high performance conditioner (HPC) mowers which use a stiff-bristled nylon brush running against a metal roller to condition hay, then spread the crop over the entire mowing width (first reported in FARM SHOW's Vol. 19, No. 5 issue).

The mower is equipped with drum-type cutting discs. Cut grass passes through two rollers - one with stiff nylon bristles and the other horizontal metal bars. Both rollers are powered with one rotating faster than the other, to cause a "rasping" action that breaks down the outer covering of stems and speeds wilting. A free-wheeling third roller deflects the exiting grass onto the ground, spreading it out evenly for fast drying.

Tests show that the HPC can reduce grass drying rates by half compared to conventional mower-conditioners, and that the crop dries faster than it would after a sepa-



Mower uses a stiff-bristled nylon brush running against a metal roller to condition hay, then spreads the crop over entire mowing width.

rate tedding operation. The conditioner can be mounted on rear-mounted, front-mounted, and pull-type Vicon disc mowers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greenland UK Ltd., Adderley Road, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3SG (ph 01630 653501; fax 01630 653453).

## Shock Compensating System For Loaders

Front-end loaders get banged up and down a lot during operation and also when the tractor is driven over rough ground. A new "shock compensating system" balances out the shocks to reduce damage and make it easier on the driver.

It consists of two accumulator units, connected together and designed to withstand high pressure, that mount on the loader. A relief valve eliminates the possibility of blockading back pressure and thus balances out shocks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trima Ltd., 33 Tatton Court, Kingsland



Two accumulator units, connected together and designed to withstand high pressure, mount on loader.

Grange, Warrington WA 1 4RR, England (ph 01925 821181; fax 01925 828378).