

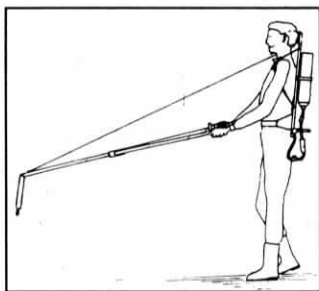
The "Cadillac" Of Weed Wipers

They're calling it the "Cadillac" of weed wipers. It's the revolutionary new "Spot on Stripper", said to be "as easy on the environment as it is on the user."

Developed primarily for applying Roundup, it consists of a 15 liter back-pack tank and a first-of-its-kind dowsing wand. Connected to the unit by a spring balance, it's almost weightless. With a reach of 1.5 meters, the nozzle at the end of the dowsing wand dabs leaves so carefully that just 0.025 ml. of herbicide is used per leaf. The rate of application allows a 1.5 liter tankful of Roundup to treat about 60,000 weed plants.

Herbicide feeds by gravity from the back-pack container to the dowsing wand via a hose fitted with a roller clamp to regulate flow rate.

Thanks to the almost weightless spring balanced dowsing wand, and the relatively small amount of herbicide re-



quired, a person can walk through fields all day without getting unduly tired, the manufacturer points out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hanewacker & Za, Oude Oppenhuizerweg 34, 8606 JC Sneek, Postbus 180, 8600 AD Sneek, Holland (ph 05150, 20000).

Robotic Milking One Year Away

It's predicted that automatic robotic milking, already in use on about 35 farms in Europe, will be on the market next year in the U.S. and Canada.

At present, only two companies - Lely and AMS Liberty - are selling robotic systems to farmers. Lely says it has sold 25 on-farm systems, and Liberty about 10. Firms with systems in research and development include Duvelsdorf, Silsoe and Gascoigne Melotte.

Lely stole the recent RAI show in Amsterdam with an elaborate display of its Astronaut automatic milking system. Especially impressive was Lely's unique system for automatically attaching and detaching teat cups. Cups drop off as each quarter is milked out.

With the Liberty system, each cow is fitted with a transponder around her neck. Upon entering the milking station, she receives a handful of feed as a bribe. Body length and teat size are pre-programmed for each cow.

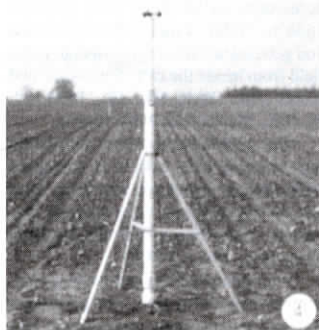
If the teat cups fail to connect after five tries, or if there's the slightest evidence of mastitis, the cow is released to a holding pen to be checked out. When the teat cup cluster connects properly, the teats are washed inside the cup for 6 sec., and the "first milk" drawn off for another 15 sec. This "first milk" and the wash water, are flushed automatically into a dump tank. Milking then commences and the flow is recorded.

"Once a system is installed and the owner is satisfied with its operation, it should be possible to switch from twice a day milking to 3 or 4 times per day. This could lead to a 15 to 20% increase in milk yield, achieved because cows are more content, and because they can be milked out on demand," the manufacturer points out.

Retail cost of a robotic system to handle 75 to 100 cows is expected to be about \$200,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lely Astronaut Milkrobot System, Lely Industries, Weverskade 10, 3155 PD, Massland, Holland (ph 0189912644).

FARM SHOW Followup, AMS Liberty Milking System, Dr. A.F. Philipsweg 53, Postbus 138, 9400 Assen, Holland (ph 031 0592041441).



Fully Equipped Weather Station

New from Hardi International is the Hardi Metpole, a fully-equipped on-farm weather station.

"A Metpole sensor placed in a crop from the beginning of the season will give you full record of all relevant weather data every half hour, providing information for sound decision making on a scientific basis," the manufacturer points out. "It enables you to select optimum time for spraying, tilling, planting, irrigating, fertilizing and harvesting."

The Metpole weather station comes with 12 sensors for collecting data on wind velocity, surface wetness, global radiation, air temperature, humidity, rainfall, soil temperature and water content.

Individual sensors (6 1/2-ft. long) can be located up to 3 miles from the base station at headquarters. Information is relayed via radio waves to a receiver and presented to your PC.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hardi Inc., 1500 West 76th St., Davenport, Iowa 52806 (ph 319 386-1730).

Hoof trimming doesn't get any easier than with the new labor-saving, all-hydraulic chute from Wopa Foot Care, of Norfolk, England.

Electric motors drive hydraulic motors that do all the heavy lifting. When the animal enters the chute, it's lifted by the hydraulically-operated belly band to take the weight off its feet.



New Holland's "All-New" Self-Propelled Forage Harvester

European farmers got their first look at a new line of self-propelled forage harvesters from New Holland at the recent RAI Show in Amsterdam.

"They're completely redesigned from the ground up with three models ranging from 300 to 450 hp.," says Wim Nagel, district manager in the Netherlands.

The "new from the ground up" machines feature a new cab with lowest-ever noise levels and a curved windshield for all-around visibility, and new instrumentation with computer monitoring of all machine functions.

The company the new machines are designed to require less maintenance. There's only one major drive belt. All other drives are shaft drives and gearboxes. They're powered by 6-cyl. Iveco diesel engines. The machines have large hinged shields for easy maintenance or they can be taken apart in modules for less-hassle repairs. And there's a built-in guidance system and a faster system for sharpening

knives and setting the shearbar for optimum cutting.

"They have the largest feed openings on the market and a new metal detecting system that gives uniform detection over the full width of the feedroll," says Nagel.

Other new features include optional 4-wheel drive, a double spout flipper for more exact direction of materials into forage boxes, a water-cooled gearbox on the cutterhead, and electronic control panels that monitor all sharpening and shearbar settings and nearly every other operating aspect of the machines.

According to a spokesman at New Holland in the U.S., no decision has yet been made on whether the new line of forage harvesters will be offered in North America.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, New Holland Nederland, Gladsaxe 25, 7327 JZ Apeldoorn, The Netherlands (ph 055 421242; fax 055 419081).

Cleaning Teat Cups With Pressure

Latest new way to clean teat cups after each milking is to scrub them with a blast of turbulent air pressure.

With this new system, air pressure replaces about 90% of the wash water normally used. When tubulated with air pressure, the smaller amount of cold water cleans equipment as good or better than conventional "water only" washing, the

manufacturer points out.

The new "almost waterless" scrubbing system readily adapts to virtually all make and model milkers. Sells for \$750.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Airwash Nederland, Hollandse Schans 3, 7137 MT Lieveelde, Holland (05443-79885).

All-Hydraulic Hoof Trimming Chute

The front and rear legs are placed in a loop sling, then raised hydraulically, one at a time, for trimming.

"There's no wrestling with the animal to position hooves for trimming, and no hand-winch to operate," the manufacturer points out. "We've had individual operators trim up to 170 animals in a single day with our new labor-saving chute and

scarcely get tired."

Even transport wheels and front gates are hydraulically operated.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wopa Foot Care, E.T. Maltand Son, Elm Farm, Shipham, Thetford, Norfolk, England (ph 0362-820254).