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Forage Rake Handles Tough Conditions

Reiter Innovative Technology identified a need in Europe's forage management market, made evident by hills, uneven terrain, and rough conditions. Its specially designed machine was developed to fill this void.

The Respiro R9 Profi is a 9-meter (29 1/2-ft.) wide, hydraulically driven forage and swath rake. It has a 4-wheel chassis for optimal weight distribution and four undercarriage spinning discs to effortlessly "float" the machine without bulldozing the soil. The rake handles all forage varieties plus triticale, green rye (when conditioned), corn, rapeseed, and hay.

The R9 offers excellent chassis and pickup floatation due to its large 500/50-22.5 tires. It's designed to rake and windrow an existing swath or gather forage spread evenly throughout a field, leaving center-positioned, left or right side, or half-and-half windrows as desired.

"One of the keys to our machine is to make a uniform and large swath for the chopper," says Thomas Reiter, company owner and R9 inventor. "To bring the chopper to its highest efficiency, we must create big swaths."

The unit's main components are a small-diameter camless pickup, an upper rotor to ensure even material flow, and wide belts to carry the crop to the desired drop-off point.

The pickup is flexible and features trailing tines for less wear and breakages.

"Stones and foreign objects stay on the

ground where they belong, helping us deliver the cleanest and lowest forage contamination on the market," Reiter says.

The upper rotor floats hydraulically and opens and closes to accommodate material flow. The transfer belt speed also fluctuates depending on ground speed and crop size.

All components are manipulated from the tractor cab with manual and automatic selections. Wheel sensors control the opening of dual axial pumps to address speed changes, providing swath uniformity regardless of crop bulk or machine speed.

"The R9 Profi can operate up to 17 mph while still conserving leaves, although this depends on field and crop conditions," Reiter says. "We recommend speeds between 7 and 12 mph for best results."

The rakes are manufactured in Austria and sold in 30 countries worldwide, including the U.S., where they operate in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and upstate New York.

Costs depend on shipping rates, so Reiter recommends inquiring through the website or contacting North American Sales Director Nick Beard.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nick Beard, Reiter Innovative Technology, RT Engineering GmbH, Eben 5a, A-4716 Hofkirchen an der Trattnach, Austria (ph +43 (0)7248 66717; 519-709-3070; thomas.reiter@reiter-respiro.com; reiter-respiro@execulink.com; www.reiter-respiro.com).

Specially-Designed Tires Tackle Tough Conditions

Farmyard terrain is often less than ideal for small implement traction, as smooth tires struggle for proper grip during routine farmyard tasks.

OTR Engineered Solutions (OTR) developed the TR-34 farm tire to counteract this slippage. The tire offers exceptional grass, mud, and loose soil performance for small tractors and ride-on mowers and was also designed to reduce the risk of turf damage and soil compaction.

OTR's unique tires feature an innovative non-directional tread pattern to provide excellent traction in soft conditions. Open-shouldered and a blend of R3 and R4 non-directional lugs improve grip in mud.

"This non-direction tread design means there's no left or right tires for easy installation," says VP of OEM Sales Brian Walter. "The aggressive styling also enhances the machine's appeal."

The TR-34 lineup comes in four sizes: 16 by 7.50-8, 18 by 8.50-10, 24 by 12.00-12, and 26 by 12.00-12.

They're available nationwide from tire retailers, including Kal Tire, Fountain Tire,



OTR's unique tires feature an innovative non-directional tread pattern to provide excellent traction in soft conditions.

and Tirecraft. Depending on size, they cost \$75 to \$180.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, OTR Engineered Solutions, 195 Chatillon Rd., Rome, Ga. 30161 (ph 706-235-9781; www.otrwheel.com).

He Made A Handy Mower Handle

John Herren figured out a way to make getting on his zero-turn mower easier and safer with some pipe and a little welding.

"The steering handles aren't steady and rigid enough for support to get on safely," says the 93-year-old DIYer. Though he prefers driving a tractor with a mower, he decided to make the mower handier for others.

He welded 3/4-in. pipe to create a handle on the front of the mower to a 1/4-in. thick steel bracket to fit over the front axle. The handle angles toward the seat so it can be easily reached. He secured the bracket with a bolt under the axle to steady the handle.

Herren says that after painting it red, the handle looks like part of the machine and is appreciated by those who use it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Herren, P.O. Box 72069, Louisville, Ky. 40272 (ph 502-741-7521; jrherren31@yahoo.com).



Herren's sturdy handle is made from 3/4-in. pipe.

He Built His Own Pumpkin Planter

Dennis Jenkins likes to grow pumpkins for fun, food plots, and to give away. But planting an acre can be a bit of work. So, he was interested when he saw a couple of ads for automatic and manual planters. However, the \$350 cost for the manual version seemed steep.

"I figured I could come up with something," Jenkins says. "So, I took a section out of a Dakon cultivator. I added a platform with a seat and made a funnel with PVC and black plastic tubing."

The cultivator's single S-tine digs the furrow, and Jenkins drops seeds every 2 or 3 ft. down the tube. A disc from an old grain drill runs behind it to cover the seed with soil, followed by a cultivator wheel to pack it.

Jenkins, who worked in a steel shop, had square tubing and most everything he needed to build the planter, which mounts on his tractor's 3-point hitch. Thanks to a front wheel and the mount, the planter is stable and balanced.

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"It really speeds planting up. It takes about 1 1/2 hrs. to plant an acre of pumpkins with rows 4 ft. apart," Jenkins says.

with rows 4 ft. apart," Jenkins says. This year, he added a second seat for planters to keep each other company.

He says it also works well for squash and other seeds, such as sweet corn and beans, which don't require precision planting.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Jenkins, 2509 2nd St., Cumberland, Wis. 54829 (ph 715-671-8192; Dennisjenkins73@icloud.com).

Mirror Guards Save On Expensive Repairs

Sparex Inc. has developed an exclusive, protective product to prolong the life of tractor mirrors.

The shiny guards are made of 430-grade stainless steel and are unique to each tractor model and brand, including Claas, Fendt, John Deere, and Valtra.

"New tractor mirrors are electrically heated and adjustable, so quite expensive," says Sparex European Product Manager Sam Green. "They can break easily from impacts with trees and branches in the field or while driving down the roads."

The protective guards are sold in pairs and are mounted to a tractor's existing mirror arms using a specially-designed bracket and clamps. They're manually adjustable and protect the rear of the mirror, allowing the operator an unrestricted view of the glass.

"Another, more unusual reason farmers like our guards is because there's kind of a 'pimp my ride' obsession happening today, especially among the younger generation," Green says. "These farmers spend a lot of money on their tractors and a lot of time in them, so they're proud that they're shiny and look nice."

The mirror guards are currently available in Ireland and parts of Europe but will soon



Stainless-steel mirror guards protect expensive tractor mirrors.

be available in North America.

Green recommends that interested customers contact the U.S. and Canadian dealers, found on the website, for availability and pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sparex Inc., 190 Lena Dr. Aurora, Ohio 44202 (ph 800-443-6472; sales.us@sparex.com; www.sparex.com).