

## Editor's Notebook



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Editor & Publisher



**Bodin Bolt** ([www.boden.ag](http://www.boden.ag)) uses an electrical pulse applied through the soil powered by an alternator running from the tractor's hydraulic system. Each coulter acts as an electrode, and current is arced directly through the soil between the coulter plates. Planting and fertilizing can be done at the same time, saving field passes.



JD18 engine (shown left) and the concept 9.0l ethanol engine (shown above).

## Alternative Fuels

Deere showcased an ethanol engine at Agritechnica in November. Compared to hydrogen and other biofuels, ethanol seems to make a lot of sense for powering large tractors on farms. The engine Deere showcased at the big shows in the U.S. this year has been the new JD18, with peak power ratings up to 908 hp. and new combustion technology, the JD18 doesn't require any aftertreatment (DEF). Deere announced its new 9RX tractors using the JD18 engine in February.

We weren't able to get any further info from Deere on their ethanol concept engine.

In the "Deere State of The Industry 2023" report, Nick Block shared, "There is a lot of potential for offering more sustainable fuel solutions without compromising engine performance. Within the variety of biofuels, John Deere considers biodiesel, renewable diesel (such as HVO), and ethanol to be the most promising options for near-term integration into heavy-duty applications. Knowing the potential for these fuel types, we developed our Next Generation Engine (NGE) technology with features such as dual overhead cams which, in the future, will give us the ability to adapt those engines with spark ignition to burn additional fuels, both liquid and gaseous."

The "2023 Business Impact Report" from Deere stated, "With current technology, a full-battery electric version of these products would not deliver the outcomes desired by our customers. Take the 9R Tractor at 620 hp. The 9Rs fuel capacity is 400 gals. at an additional weight of nearly 2,800 lbs. Changing that to full electrification would mean almost 60 batteries at a weight of nearly 67,000 lbs., more than 20,000 lbs. heavier than the tractor itself. The 9R currently sells for about \$430,000. The price of almost 60 batteries to power the tractor would exceed nearly \$1.3 million today. Beyond the additional cost and weight to the equipment, access to charging infrastructure, and length of machine operation continue to be significant challenges with electrification, given current technology."

## Liberty Quotes

"Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends." *H. Jackson Brown, Jr.*

"All tyrannies rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed they must rely exclusively on force." *George Orwell*

"Just because a government decrees a situation legal, does not in any absolute sense make the situation lawful." *Neil Oliver*

"The society that puts equality before freedom will end up with neither. The society that puts freedom before equality will end up with a great measure of both." *Milton Friedman*

"A lie doesn't become truth, a wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good, just because it is accepted by a majority." *Booker T. Washington*

"Capitalism and communism stand at opposite poles. Their essential difference is this: The communist seeing the rich man and his fine home says, 'No man should have so much.' The capitalist seeing the same thing says, 'All men should have as much.'" *Phelps Adams*

**Ole was in court and after an 8 hour trial he pleads guilty.** The judge said, "Why didn't you just plead guilty in the first place and save the court and these people all this time?"

Ole said, "I thought dat I was innocent until I heard all the evidence!"

**Little Ole and Little Sven were in the same English class together.** The teacher asked the students to write a story titled 'My Dog'. After reviewing all the papers, she confronted the two.

"Ole, why is your story the same as Sven's? Did you copy his?"

"No," said Ole, "Its da same dog."

**Little Ole's mother was reprimanding him for throwing stones at a boy in school.** "Vy didn't yew talk to me about dat boy instead of throwing stones at him?" she asked.

"Vy would I talk to yew when ya can't hit da side of a barn when yew throw?"

**Ole was telling Sven that Little Ole was having trouble in school.** "Are his grades bad?" asked Sven.

"Dey sure are," says Ole, "dare under vater."

"Whadda ya mean?" asked Sven. "Dare under C level," said Ole.



**May Wes Skid Hitch** ([www.maywes.com](http://www.maywes.com)) allows you to add a standard 2-in. receiver to your skid loader so you can move trailers around your farm yard with a skid steer. Easy to install and remove, it stores easily and has an 800 lb. tongue weight rating.



**Rhinog Ag** ([www.rhinogag.com](http://www.rhinogag.com)) introduced their new 4515 heavy-duty 15-ft. Flex-Wing mower in Louisville and are calling it "the toughest Flex-Wing in history." Using 5/8-in. blades and an independent suspension system allowing each wheel axle to move independently improves stability and cut and reduces wear.



## Kubota Concept Tractor

Kubota showcased its New Agri Concept tractor at the Consumer Electronics Show in January. CES is the largest technology event in the world hosted annually in Las Vegas.

The all-electric concept uses autonomous tech with AI to provide solutions for small-acreage growers.

Featuring six independent drive motors and a standard 3-pt. hitch, it can charge from 10 to 80 percent in less than 6 minutes.

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## Not Such Great News...

There's a company calling on folks who appear in FARM SHOW Magazine trying to sell them a plaque with their story. This company represents themselves as FARM SHOW but has nothing to do with us. We will never call you and ask you to buy books, plaques, or anything else. Buyer Beware!



National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, Ky., Feb. 2024

## Covering The Shows

World Ag Expo, Tulare, Calif., and National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, Ky., are two of the largest shows in the U.S. Held in the same week in February, here are a few items from the shows that caught our eye.



**Verdan Robotics** ([www.verdanrobotics.com](http://www.verdanrobotics.com)) showcased its Model B smart sprayer which has Bullseye Technology with millimeter targeting of weeds, even in high density crops, and can operate day or night. With the ability to weed, thin, and fertilize conventional, organic, and no-till crops with up to 96 percent less input usage and a 50 percent decrease in weeding costs, they claim most operations can see a payback on their equipment in less than one year.



The Standard PTO Kit has a PTO Grease Plug and Tractor PTO Cover to keep both sides of the PTO protected from dirt and ready to go. Both the plug and cover come with "Remove Before Farming" red tags. ([www.tractorprotection.com](http://www.tractorprotection.com))



The **Oliver Colibri** identifies the position of the crop and places sawtooth blades between the seed lines. Steel weeding disks are mounted on hydraulic parallelograms for consistent cultivation. The Colibri can be used on row spacing as tight as 1 3/4 in., making mechanical cultivation possible for the first time in high-density crops like spinach and carrots.