New Products From Europe

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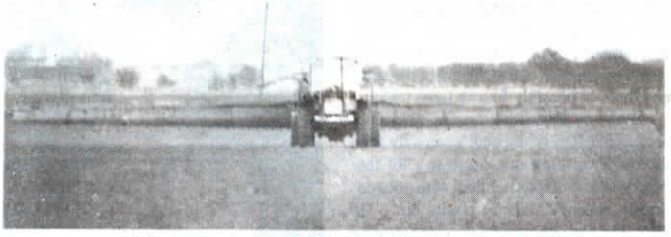
New-Style "Euro-Trac" Tractor

An entirely new design concept for adjusting tractor weight for each job and field conditions is featured on the new "Euro-Trac" from the Schluter Co., one of Germany's largest and oldest tractor manufacturers.

What appears to be a conventional up-front hood and fuel tank is a solid iron weight. It's hydraulically operated and can be moved forward or backward, or pushed completely off the tractor (onto a special holding frame which stores it at the right height for retrieval) and replaced with a front loader which slides into position on the same sliding track on which the weight moves. The sliding weight allows total tractor weight to be shifted from 60% in front and 40% in back to just the opposite.

The Euro-Trac's engine is mounted directly under the tiltable cab to minimize noise. A rotatable seat allows the driver to choose the best way to go, depending on the job, attached equipment, etc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anton Schluter Munchen, Munchner Strasse 32, D-8050 Friesing, W. Germany (ph 0498161-13051)



Air-Assisted Crop Sprayers

Billed as "the most promising new development in sprayers in the last decade," air-assisted crop sprayers are catching on fast in Europe. At last month's Smithfield show in England, at least six major manufacturers exhibited latest new models. Still more companies are expected to enter the fast-growing market this coming year.

The new-style sprayers get the job done with up to half as much chemical, half as much water and with a lot less drift. Here's a closer look at two different versions:

Sleeve-Boom Sprayer

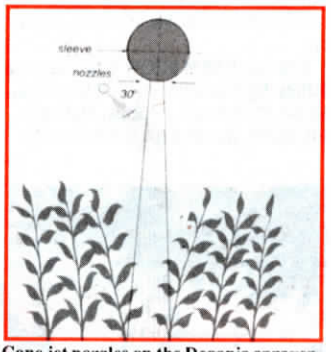
Developed in Israel, the Degania sprayer uses an inflatable 25 in. dia. plastic sleeve which runs the full length of the boom. The tractor pto drives a powerful air blower. Air volume and velocity are uniform at every air outlet (1.5 in. dia. holes spaced 3 in. apart) running along the bottom of the sleeve. Air turbulence turns plants so that spray droplets cover both the top and lower side of leaves and their stems. Air flow currents force down spray droplets at a velocity which overcomes strong winds to reduce drift 35% or more.

Available in 3 pt. and trailer models up to 80 ft. wide.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Degania U.S.A., 903 E. Bacon St., Plant City, Fla. (ph 1-800 633-0428).

The Airtec Nozzle

Cleanacres Machinery in England has introduced the Airtech nozzle which uses compressed air to form droplets but not to deliver them to the target area.



Cone jet nozzles on the Degania sprayer, pictured above, are turned at an angle of 30° toward the air stream which carries droplets with minimum drift.

Available as a complete sprayer, or in a kit for retrofitting existing sprayers, the nozzle reportedly provides effective control with rates as low as 1/10 of the label recommendation, and with 35% less drift. A curtain of air from the nozzle guides droplets down into the crop, thus minimizing drift.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CleanacresMachinery, Hazleton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL5444DX, England (ph 0451 60139).

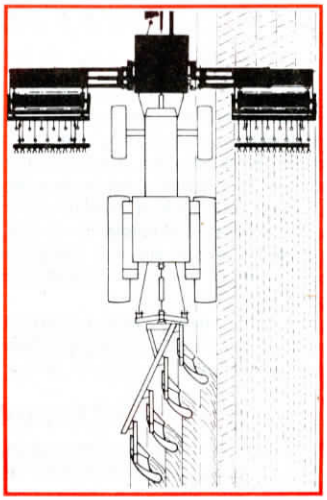
Once-Over "Condor System" From Lely

You can plow, prepare the seedbed and plant in one trip with the new Condor System from Lely. Introduced in Europe last month at the DLG show in Frankfurt and slated for unveiling in the U.S. later this year, it "marries up" proven components—Lely's power-driven Roterra harrow and Lely's air seeder.

Here, in an 18.5 ft. wide pass, are the major options the system provides in a once-over operation, using front and rear mounted equipment on a 150 hp tractor with front and rear 3 pt. and pto:

- Plow, till and plant (see drawing).
- Plow and prepare the seedbed.
- Prepare the seedbed and plant.
- Seed only (using two Roterra units and one air planter-hopper up front, and one Roterra and air planter-hopper unit in back.

"So far as we know, no other manufacturer offers a complete system comparable to the Condor. It allows you to do three operations—plow, prepare the seedbed and plant—in just one operation, and at normal plowing speed," notes Peter Koeman, European exporter of Lely equipment. "The air planter's seed-metering mechanism is ground driven."



You can plow, till and plant in one operation. Front-mounted seeder, on right, seeds previous round's plowing strip.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Lely Co., P.O. Box 1060, Wilson, N.C. 27894 (ph 919 291-7050).

Robotic Milking Not Far Away

"We expect to be on the market in two years," says the German manufacturer of a cow-milking robot which made its debut at the 1989 DLG show in Frankfurt. Firms in England and Holland are also front runners in the race to perfect robotic milking.

Until recently, one of the major unsolved problems was getting the robot to automatically affix teat cups. "We've solved the problem with sensors that steer the robot's arm to the teats and, without human assistance, slip cups onto the teats one at a time, starting with the back row," explains Dr. Mattias Duck, researcher-consultant for Duvelsdorf and Sohn. "After affixing the four cups, the robot moves on to affix cups on the next cow. Because it doesn't wait for the cow to milk out, one robot will be able to handle 140 to 160 cows."

Dr. Duck doesn't foresee robotic milking opening the gate to large-scale development of huge corporate dairy farms. "I think it will strengthen the family-farm concept of dairying. Family members will be free from the drudgery of having to be there twice a day to do the milking. With robotic milking, cows will voluntarily leave their stalls four to six times a day and go to the milking parlor, unattended by human labor. We anticipate that robotic milking will increase milk production of typical family farm herds at least 15%."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duvelsdorf & Sohn, Gmbh & Co. KG, D-2802 Ottersberg-Posthausen, Germany (ph 042 97766).