First Self-Propelled Tillage Tool Machine

The new Krone Tillage Trac looks like a tractor but it's billed instead as one of the first self-propelled tillage tools. It's designed to reduce soil compaction while pulling tillage tools, drills and planters through the field but it's not designed to handle deep tillage tools, forage harvesters, loaders or any other work commonly performed by farm tractors.

The Tillage Trac was developed by Krone at the request of one of the biggest farmers in Germany, Frederick Mathieson, who was concerned with compaction. The machine features an unusual "tricycle" wheel arrangement with two wheels close together in front and two spaced far apart at the rear so that no two wheels ever follow in the same track. All four wheels on the hydrostatic machine are independently-driven and steered to reduce slippage and to keep the tires from digging into the field on turns. Although powerful, with a 178-hp. 6-cyl. Deutz engine, the Tillage Trac weighs about 6,000 lbs. less than a comparably-sized tractor.

"Because there's less compaction, and the machine runs more evenly through the field, depth of cultivation doesn't vary. You get very even cultivation and seeding with little damage to the field," says George A. Reed, Krone general manager who also heads up North American operations.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, KMN Modern Farm Equipment, Inc., 406 Mound City Road, West Memphis, Ark. 72301 (ph 501 732-4270).

New British Cookstove Heats With Lightbulbs

"It works like gas but uses electricity," says manufacturers of a first-of-its-kind cookstove that uses "instant heat" high intensity tungsten halogen lamps to produce heat rather than resistance-type burner elements that take several minutes to heat up and cool down.

When turned off, the stove looks like a ceramic-topped electric stove. But when it comes on, the four narrow bulbs that run across the surface of the burner area becomes readily visible.

Cooking begins immediately and yet the rest of the stove top remains cool due to reflectors arranged below the bulbs which direct the heat. You can turn the bulbs down when needed and get an immediate heat response as with a gas flame. There are six different settings on each burner for precise control.

The stove, not including an oven, sells for $642.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank Knight, Thorn EMI Domestic Electrical Appliances Ltd., New Lane, Havant, Hants. England PO9 2NH.

Sliding Floor

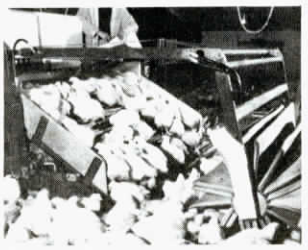
Anyone who hauls hogs to market by semi will be interested in this unique "sliding floor" double deck trailer built by John Houghton, Milnthorpe, Scotland.

Houghton demonstrated the powered double decker at the recent Royal Highland Show for passersby, demonstrating that in just a couple minutes the entire second floor raises up from its position on the floor of the trailer.

The double deck is lifted by cables powered by an electro-hydraulic drive unit encased in a metal housing in the ceiling of the trailer. Once in position, it's locked in place with four pins. Separating panels, to make pens on each floor, fold out from the walls.

"You can haul hogs on the second floor and cattle underneath. We also make one model with two sliding decks so you can haul three decks of hogs at once," says Houghton.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Houghtons Parkhouse Coachwork, Park Road, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7AD United Kingdom.



Chicken Harvester

An Irish company unveiled a new "chicken harvester" at the Royal Show in England. The machine, which is winning awards from animal welfare groups because it's gentler on birds, uses a giant, rubber-coated paddle to pull birds onto an inclined conveyor which feeds them into transport crates.

The company says that catching chickens by hand is expensive both because of the labor involved and the damage done to birds. The new $100,000 machine is so gentle the company says it lessens damage 40% and will pay for itself in reduced damage to birds alone.

The entrapment paddle, with its rubber paddles, rotates slowly, prodding birds onto the conveyor which is fitted with perches. When the chickens arrive at the top they step onto another conveyor which feeds them to a weighing conveyor. When a predetermined number of chickens have stepped onto the weighing conveyor it starts to feed the chickens to one of four stacking conveyors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tamdev, Ltd., Moss Lane, Dromore, Co. Down BT25 1AX Northern Ireland (ph 0846 692358)

"Throwaway" Sprayer Uses Aerosol Cans

A British company has developed a low-volume aerosol can sprayer that they claim is more efficient and faster than most conventional field sprayers.

The company's spray canisters can be fitted to any boom and set up to operate manually or electrically. Key to success of the throwaway system is the spray nozzle head, which contains a small spinning wheel, that atomizes the spray to a mist containing tiny droplets as small as 5 microns, which makes it similar to spinner-type CDA nozzles.

The carrying agent is special in that it's a film-forming, non-drying agent that's also non-toxic. "When water is sprayed through atomizing sprayers, the drops often dry out before they reach the plant. Our carrying agent stays wet," says Mike Sampson, president of Mandops Inc., one of three British companies that has formed Stewkie Mandops, Ltd., developer of the new spray system.

"In recent tests we strapped 34 canisters to a 36-ft. boom, activating 17 cans at a time and then alternating to the other 17 when those were empty. That let us spray approximately 85 acres and then we were able to switch to new cans in less time than it would have taken to refill a conventional spray tank," points out Sampson. "The big advantage is that there are no pumps and no large tanks so you can spray with a small truck, tractor, three-wheeler or even a motorcycle."

For more information, contact the company's North American office: FARM SHOW Followup, Stewkie Mandops, Ltd., Mike Sampson, 1166 E. Blue Heron Blvd., Singer Island, Fla. 33404 (ph 305 842-0033).