

Best Ideas From Europe

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Small Round Baler Makes 1 1/2-Ft. Dia. Bales

An Italian company says it has had a lot of interest in its new small round baler which makes bales about 1 1/2 ft. in dia. and about 3 ft. long.

"It requires only a 25 hp. tractor and makes easy-to-handle bales," says a company representative, explaining that the company first got the idea from farmers looking for a machine that would bale up straw, brush, clippings from vineyards and orchards, as well as other fibrous material into handy-size bales that could be burned in wood stoves or furnaces. "They're great in orchards because you can bale up branches and other pruned materials without having

to shred them up with a mower."

The baler can be fitted either with a normal pickup head for hay and straw or the heavier-duty pickup designed for branches and other woody material.

The pto-powered baler has a fixed roller chamber and dumps out the back. Has a 46-in. wide pickup, a bale counter, pto slip-clutch, and shear bolt protection for knotters and flywheel. Sells for about \$8,000.

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On-The-Go Tire Inflation

"It pays for itself by reducing wear and tear on tires," says Martin Tigges of Pösges & Tigges, manufacturer of a new on-the-go tire inflation system that makes it possible to quickly increase tire pressure for road travel or reduce it in the field to boost traction.

The system consists of a small electric-powered compressor, a control box, and four pressure hoses stored in small plastic tube compartments, one by each tire (two hoses if used on a 2-WD). The control box is preset with an inflation pressure and a deflation pressure so that it takes just seconds to inflate or deflate each tire and then store each coiled hose back in its storage com-

partment.

"Farmers who travel long distances over the road are looking for a way to prevent wear yet still have the traction they need in the field. This lets you set the tires at the optimum pressure for both the field and the road, rather than somewhere in between. Besides saving money by preventing tire wear, the system also makes the tractor more fuel efficient - less rolling resistance on the road and less slip in the field - so it saves money on fuel," says Tigges.

FARM SHOW first got a look at the tractor-mounted inflation system 4 years ago at the DLG Show when the college engineering student who first came up with



Revolutionary New Forage Harvester

Deutz is ready to market this first-of-its-kind forage harvester - based on technology developed in the U.S. - that uses high-pressure rollers to compress hay into flat mats that dry fast.

Deutz representatives say the machine lets you cut hay earlier at a higher moisture content and virtually eliminates leaf loss. Mats can then be baled with conventional round or square balers.

The idea was first tried several years ago at the University of Wisconsin. Since then Deutz in Germany and a Canadian manufacturer, Dion Equipment in Quebec, have both been working independently on machines. Last summer both companies took machines to the field. Dion says it still has more work to do on their machine but Deutz claims it will be ready to market their machine on a limited basis in 1992.

The Deutz "Grassliner" is as big as a self-propelled forage harvester, with a 9-ft. rotary disc cutting head in front. As material is cut it's lifted into the combine by conveyor and then run through a series of roll-



ers and presses that make a compressed mat of hay - varying in thickness depending on the crop - that comes out the back of the machine. Because the compression of the hay squeezes out moisture, the mats dry quickly. Hay cut and compressed at 80 percent moisture can be an often be baled later the same day.

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Dion Machinery's prototype mat-making forage harvester is much smaller than the self-propelled Deutz machine and is projected to sell for about one-third the price (about \$20,000). According to Agriculture Canada researcher Philippe Savoie, who's worked on the project for several years, there are still a number of problems to work out on the experimental machine.

the idea was exhibiting his prototype (Vol. 12, No. 1). That original system let you inject air on the go without getting out of the cab by feeding air pressure into a specially-constructed hollow hub that replaced the tractor's original hub. Tigges says that on-the-go system, which allows you to adjust air pressure without stopping, is still available but is much more expensive. "Farmers told us they wanted a more affordable system that would do the same thing. This

system can be moved from tractor to tractor - no permanent modification required." Sells for about \$1,500 and is already an option on some tractor models, including the Mercedes Benz MB-Trac tractor (pictured).

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