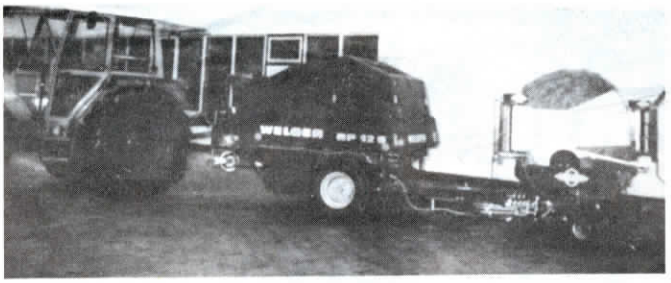


Tow-Behind Bale Wrapper

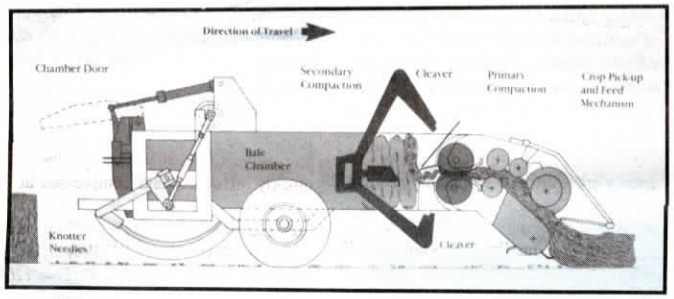
"It's the most sophisticated bale wrapper ever designed," says Rainer Kirch of Busatis-Werke, German manufacturer of a new tow-behind bale wrapper that trails behind round balers, automatically wrapping bales tightly with air-tight layers of plastic while the next bale is being formed.

Once it's finished wrapping a bale, the new Busatis wrapper automatically dumps the bale, all without any input from the operator. He just concentrates on running the baler - the wrapper runs itself, thanks to a set of electronic controls.

One key feature of the new machine, which can be used either behind a baler or independently behind a tractor, is that it dumps bales off to the side on their ends rather than on their sides. "The ends of the bale are covered with as many as 24 overlapping layers of plastic while the sides have only 6 layers of protection. When you dump bales on their sides they often get punctured by stubble, resulting in spoilage inside the bale. Dropping bales on end virtually eliminates the problem," says Kirch.

So far Busatis has built two prototypes but plans to have several more in the field during the coming season, with full production scheduled to begin at the end of 1992. Kirch expects the balers to be available in North America through the company's U.S. distributor. It will sell for around $16,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Busatis Corporation, 1813 Linnstreet, North Kansas City, Mo. 64116 (ph 816 471-8090).



Experimental Baler Makes Compacted Bales

Many machines have been built to compress bales after they're already made but the first machine that produces compacted bales that have twice as much material in them as conventional bales has been produced by ag engineers in England.

The Silsoe Research Institute says the experimental baler has a 2-step compaction system. The first is a set of compression rollers directly behind the pickup which compresses hay or straw into a continuous mat that is then fed into the bale chamber in zig-zag fashion. Once the bale chamber is full, a pair of "cleaver" arms close over the end of the bale and twin hydraulic cylinders push the cleavers toward the back of the baler, compressing the bale. When the compression stroke is complete, conventional needles and knotters tie the 4 by 4-ft. bale, which is then ejected through a hydraulically controlled door at the back of the baler.

"It makes bales about twice as dense as conventionally-formed bales, reducing the cost of handling and transportation," says Dr. Paul Biscoe of Silsoe, noting that the machine is available for licensing to a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Silsoe Research Institute, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedford, MK45 4HS England (ph 0525 60000; fax 0525 60156).

World's Fastest Tractor?

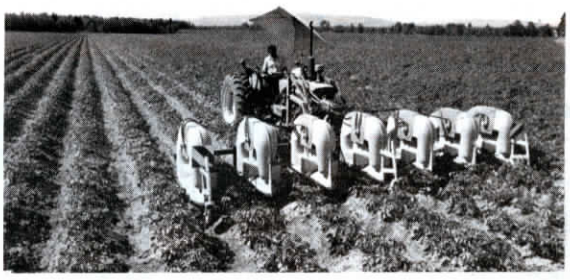
"I'd like to see tractor racing become a major international sport," says German farmer and businessman Edgar Sauerwein, who exhibited his Massey Ferguson 35 tractor at the DLG Show in Frankfurt. He was recently clocked at over 80 mph on the tractor.

What makes the tractor unusual is that the structure of it has not been modified. It has the original frame, axles and body. Only changes were to the engine, which is turbocharged, and new transmission was installed.

"It now travels at speeds from 1 1/2 mph to 80 mph," says Sauerwein about the 30-year-old tractor, which he first bought for use around his own farm. "I can still use it for jobs around the farm."

Sauerwein went public with the tractor to look for farmers interested in setting up an organized tractor racing league. He doesn't want to build super modified dragsters out of tractors. They must have an unmodified structure but the engines can be souped up for speed. So far, he says he's had a lot of interest. He'd like to hear from farmers all over the world interested in the new sport. Sauerwein got interested in souped-up tractors through his business of selling turbochargers for farm engines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edgar Sauerwein, Obertorstrasse 13, D-6114 Groß-Umstadt Germany (ph 060 784108).



"Bio-Collector" Blows Bugs Off Plants

A number of bug-sucking vacuum machines have come on the market over the past several years, but the German inventor and manufacturer of the new "Bio-Collector" says his new machine out-performs anything else on the market, removing up to 95 percent of potato bug beetles on full-grown plants.

Fritz Engelhardt of Muhlhausen, Germany, says the key to success of his new machine is that it uses two air jets per row to knock bugs off the plant before sucking them into collector pans that run at ground level.

Made out of heavy ABS plastic, the individual collectors reach down between rows. Each is fitted with a hydraulically driven blower fan, powered by a pto-driven hydraulic pump and large oil reservoir mounted at the back of the tractor. The collector mounts on a front-end loader. Air blasts out two outlets on one side of the row and bugs are sucked into an inlet on the other side of the row, which deposits bugs in the collector pans. Engelhardt says less than 2 percent of bugs are knocked to the ground, where they can't be collected. Bugs remain alive inside the collector pans and must be emptied out periodically.

"Other bug vacuums kill all the bugs collected off the plants as they suck them up. With our system, you can let the beneficial flying insects fly away before disposing of the bugs," says Engelhardt, who designed the machine primarily for potatoe bugs but says there are many other potential applications. He has already sold four machines in Canada and one in Idaho. A 4-row machine sells for about $12,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fritz Engelhardt, Hofen 17, 8431 Muhlhausen, Germany (ph 09185 201; fax 09185 1305).

Electronic Heat Detector

"It's more than 90 percent accurate," says Christopher Zawadski, farmer-inventor and manufacturer of a new heat detector for cattle, sheep and horses that simply consists of a probe that you insert into the vagina. If a light goes off, the animal is ready for insemination.

Powered by a 9-volt battery, the detector measures the resistance of fluids in the vagina. As the female animal goes into heat, composition of the fluids changes.

"Other methods are complicated and ineffective. In most cases our detector is nearly 100 percent accurate and can pay for itself with the first use," says Zawadski, who developed the device while farming in Scotland. He sells the detector for about $440. He's working with a distributor in California (Universal Marketing Services, Fresno, Calif.) which may soon offer the detector for sale in North America.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Medivet Ltd., Hammerain House, Hookstone Ave., Harrogate, N. Yorks HG2 8ER England (ph 0423 870866; fax 0423 873311).