

PRODUCES TIGHTLY-WRAPPED HAY AROUND A "SOFT CORE" CENTER

New Idea Adds Round Baler

Avco New Idea has boarded the round baler bandwagon. The model pictured was one of the company's top new attractions at the recent Farm Progress show in Wisconsin.

Closely resembling a similar round baler marketed in the U.S. and Canada by McKee, headquartered in Elmira, Ontario, Canada, it's described in New Idea's literature as "not just another round baler but a unique machine designed to meet the needs and climatic conditions encountered by farmers in humid as well as dry areas. The finished bale has a soft core with a solid, high density outer shell. This type of bale formation makes it less prone to spoilage from within and highly rain resistant."

The baler makes approximately 6 ft. dia. hay bales measuring about 5 ft. wide and weighing 1,100 to 1,800

lbs. each. It makes straw bales weighing 600 to 1,100 lbs.

Here's New Idea's explanation of how bales are formed:

"The pickup feeds material directly into the large fixed position bale chamber. At a fast, continuous speed, material is fed into the chamber where it's rolled by parallel-running flat belts. The continuous flow of material builds the bale from the outside, compacting the center while building a high density outer shell. After the tying operation, you simply open the tailgate with the tractor hydraulic control valve and the finished bale rolls gently out the rear."

For more details, see your local dealer or contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Avco New Idea, Coldwater, Ohio.



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NEW GRASS HOUSE SOLVES PROBLEMS WITH PREVIOUS SYSTEMS, SAYS MANUFACTURER

Hydroponics Hits Comeback Trail

That "on-again, off-again" hydroponic system of growing "spring fresh" green grass the year around without soil is on again.

Latest new system is the Grass House, available in models that produce from 200 to more than 4,000 lbs. of grass per day.

Until now, hydroponics — despite repeated attempts — hasn't caught on with beef, dairy or hog farmers. College and University researchers generally have remained skeptical and unimpressed.

So now comes the Grass House from New Era Enterprises, Marion, Iowa, and with it the obvious questions:

Is it simply another attempt to ride a dead horse? Or, does it indeed represent a breakthrough design which overcomes problems which caused previous systems to lose favor with dairy, beef or hog farmers?

"It's a brand new ball game entirely," Gary McGowan, national sales manager, told FARM SHOW. "This system is new and different. We know it works."

For openers, the company is offering a "buy back" contract: "If the system doesn't perform up to the owner's expectations, we'll buy it back," says McGowan. He points out that high labor requirements hurt previous systems. "We've reduced it to only a few minutes per day."

Another major improvement, according to McGowan, is replacement of galvanized trays, in which the seed was previously soaked, with corrosion-proof fiber glass trays, and a new method of foliar spraying nutrients onto the growing grass rather than soaking the roots. "We've also developed newer and better nutrient solutions, and improved the environment within the unit," explains McGowan.

Cost of the smallest Grass House (200 to 400 lbs. per day output) is right at \$4,600. "We work right with the new owner the first few weeks. Once he's experienced in managing it, he or his family can handle the labor chores in only about 15 min. per day," McGowan points out. Each tray, seeded with about 7 lbs. of oats



Gary McGowan, national sales manager, displays grass from the Grass House seven days after the trays were seeded with oats. Units available to produce from 200 to more than 4,000 lbs. of grass per day.

or barley kernels, provides 45 to 55 lbs. of green grass in seven days. The biggest unit (4,000 lbs. daily capacity) is housed in a self contained building and sells for about \$40,000.

Company literature describing the new Grass House presents many of the same general arguments and claims which have accompanied previously-introduced hydroponic systems over the past 15 or 20 years.

"... In our lifetime, we will see hydroponics come into this era with astronomical leaps and bounds — the population explosion and land shortage will invariably bring this about."

"... They don't make land anymore, but we can give you the equivalent feeding production of approximately 100 acres on your farm from one 24 by 32 ft. Grass House."

"... The 'X Factor' in succulent grass juices cannot be identified by science; however, the results are overwhelming and now it can be a part of your farm program."

"... As if high quality feed (producing greater profits) wasn't enough, the Grass House can save you as much as 50% in your feeding costs."

"... University studies proved hydroponic grass fed animals had 23% more gain... on 25% less feed... in 14% less time."

For more details, including the names of hog, beef or dairy farmers using the system if you'd like to pay them a visit, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Grass House, New Era Enterprises, 900 50th St., Marion, Iowa 52302 (ph. 319 377-8211).