

Manure Injection Catches On In Europe

A new law in Holland that requires farmers to inject all manure below ground level has spurred the development of new injection systems. At least 6 injectors made their debut at the RAI show, including a promising new machine developed by Seltec Ltd.

Distributor Frans Meijer told FARM SHOW the new law, which goes into effect in 1991, is designed to prevent both run-off pollution and the release of gases into the air. "We think similar laws will be passed all over Europe as well as in the U.S. and Canada as protection of the environment becomes a bigger political issue," says Meijer, noting that the Seltec machine was developed by an Irish manufacturer who modified an air seeder from New Zealand.

The injector features a distributor manifold that mounts above the frame. The distributor is fitted with a rotating 35-knife cutter - made out of sickle sections - that

breaks up solids coming out of the tank, preventing plug-ups. Large 3-in. flexible hoses carry manure to injectors that mount on spring tines, trailing behind up-front coulters. Meijer says mounting the injectors on spring tines is important. "They vibrate causing dirt to fall back into the slot, sealing it so gasses can't escape. Other injectors mount on solid shanks leaving injected manure exposed to the air."

The Irish manufacturer of the machine, Richard Barber at Seltec Ltd., told FARM SHOW he's looking for a U.S. manufacturer to build and distribute the new manure injector. He's already in touch with Case/IH and Gehl.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Seltec Ltd., Unit 6, Warren Point Industrial Estate, County Down, BT34 3CA Northern Ireland (ph 0693773452).

Pig "Imager" Eliminates Weigh Scales

A Danish inventor-manufacturer who received his Ph.D. at Kansas State University exhibited a revolutionary new hog "imager" at the Agromek show that lets you weigh hogs in their pens without putting them on a scale.

Swend Jensen says the idea behind the new hand-held computerized device is that hogs with similar measurements weigh about the same. Spring-loaded measuring arms and a walking cog wheel measure the width, length and depth of a hog, feeding the data into a miniature computer that compares those figures with the dimensions of thousands of other hogs in its memory, and then feeds out a weight that's no more than a percent or two different from what you'd get if you put the animal on a weigh scale.

"You just run it once down the back of the animal to measure the width and length of the body, and then turn it to run down the side of the animal to measure the depth. It



takes only a few seconds to get a reading and you don't stress the animal by herding it onto a scale," says Jensen, noting that the new imager lets growers easily take random readings to keep track of weight gains. Sells for about \$2,000. The company is looking for a U.S. distributor.

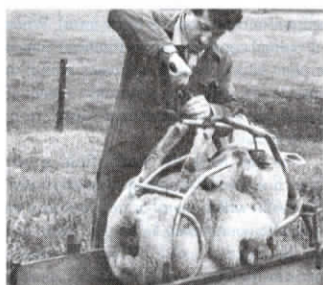
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Svend Aage Jensen, Director, Dumatic AS, Selma Lagerlofsalle 15, Soborg 2860h, Denmark (ph 45 31 67 15 27; fax 45 31 67 15 27).

New Chute For Sheep

"There's never been an easier way to handle sheep," say the manufacturers of this new chute that lets you work on even the biggest sheep with ease.

It consists of a pivot cradle positioned in a narrow walkway. With the cradle in the down position, the sheep is herded into the walkway and walks right into the headgate of the cradle. The rear end then swings down behind the animal and the whole cradle pivots up, holding the animal upside down for work on hooves, mouth, or rear end. Sells for \$230.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wopa B.V., Postbus 44, 7130 AA Lichtenvoerde,



Holland (ph 05443-72415; fax 05443-72445).

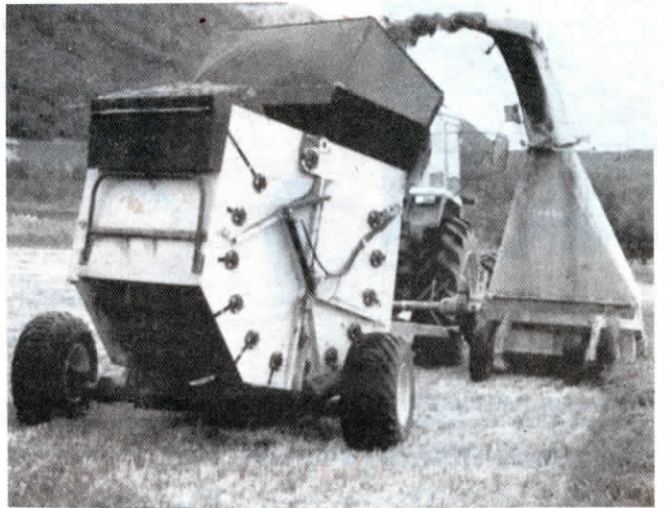


Photo courtesy Power Farming

Top-Load Round Baler Designed For Making "No Wilt" Silage

You've never seen anything like this new top-loading round baler that has no hay pickup. Instead it's designed to be top-filled by a forage chopper to make densely packed silage bales with virtually no leaf loss.

The Orkel GP 1200 baler trails behind a conventional forage chopper that can be set either to direct-cut or pick up windrows. The blower chute is set to blow directly into an open chute at the top of the fixed chamber baler.

The baler is the brainchild of Norwegian manufacturer Gjonnes Mek Verksted. The company says the baler works great to make silage bales in both hay and corn and can also be used to chop and bale straw. It's designed for at least a 60 hp. tractor and features a pto-driven split gearbox that lets the tractor pto drive both the chopper and baler.

The baler has a fixed chamber with 13 chain-driven rollers. As crop material is blown into the baler it's tumbled loosely by the rollers until the chamber is about half full, at which point the bale starts forming as with any other round baler. When a bale of preset density is formed, a red light is illuminated on either side of the machine. If one or the other of the lights doesn't come on, the operator can direct more material to that side of the bale chamber until it does. Once the bale is tied, the hydraulically-operated rear tailgate lifts and the bale is ejected.

Because the crop material can be finely chopped it can be put under much greater pressure in the bale chamber. Bale weight ranges from 1,300 to 2,400 lbs., or 20 to 30 percent higher than conventional bales. The manufacturer has produced bales as heavy as 3,300 lbs. Hydraulic cylinders on either side of the baler double as tailgate openers and bale density regulators. Density is controlled with a regulator at the front of the baler that can be preset from 1,120 to 1,820 psi.

In operation, the baler follows the tractor but sits at an angle on its chassis so that it faces the spout of the forage harvester, which is offset to the side of the tractor. The distance between the harvester and baler can be adjusted on the drawbar.

Once formed the bales can be wrapped or bagged. Because they're so tightly made, spoilage due to air infiltration is cut to a minimum. Tests by a Norwegian government agency have reportedly shown that the direct-harvested bales produced by the new baler have a higher dry matter and protein content than bales made by conventional fixed-chamber harvesting windrowed hay.

The Orkel baler is already on the market in Norway and the company is looking for foreign distribution.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mr. J. Gjonnes, Gjonnes Mek Verksted, N-7320 Fannrem, Norway (ph 010477485744; fax 010477486205).

Solar-Powered Water Trough

"You can put it anywhere. Works even on cloudy days," says Leny Heebink, of Farm Shop Import, about the company's new solar-powered water trough.

The waterer is designed to pull water out of shallow ditches or hard-to-reach rivers and streams. It's got a floating pump that's powered by a pair of 12-volt batteries mounted at the front of the trough. The batteries are recharged by a panel of solar cells on a metal post. The trough is heavy plastic. Waterer can also be used to pull water out of a well if fitted with a different kind of pump. Sells for \$1,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farm Shop Import En Export B.V., Tsjerkebuoren 65A, 8495 KG Oldeboorn, Holland (ph 05663-1749; fax 05663-1804).

