

Australian Field Days

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Farm Invention Of The Year

A revolutionary disk plow designed by wheat farmer Gordon Leiblich for one-trip minimum tillage in heavy trash was named Australian 1983 Farm Invention of the Year at the Orange show. It features conventional vertical discs, each operating in conjunction with a companion disc which operates horizontally.

"The two discs, working together, create a tillage action completely different than you get with a chisel plow or field cultivator, or with a conventional disk plow," explains Leiblich.

"One disc digs into the soil; the other deflects the soil, directing it back almost into its original place. In the process, weeds are laid on top of the ground with virtually no soil left on the roots — as is the case

with conventional chisels and field cultivators."

Leiblich thinks his new-style disk plow is tailor-made for air seeders: "It'll prepare a seedbed with very little disturbance of the soil, yet is able to move through heavy trash without plugging." He's ready to go to the field with a 28 ft. wide version of his new invention which, in combination with an air seeder, will be used to plant in undisturbed wheat straw and stubble at 5 to 6 mph.

"We'd welcome inquiries from interested manufacturers, distributors or farmers in the U.S. and Canada," says Leiblich.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gordon Leiblich, Box 157, Kimba, South Australia 5641 (ph 086 472-009).

Hay Mower Also Chops Silage

"It sells for about half as much, yet does twice as much work," says Gallagher Engineering of its new heavy duty Forager that will soon be marketed in the U.S. and Canada.

Equipped with a hay-conditioning chute, the basic Forager becomes a one-pass mower and conditioner. You can bale or stack the hay, or you can come back with the Forager in a few hours and chop (either fine or coarse) the partially wilted crop for silage. There's very little adjustment in converting it from the mowing to the chopping configuration.

"It's been used for chopping corn but it's really best suited for mowing, conditioning and chopping alfalfa and other grasses," says Vaughan Jones, marketing director. "It'll sell for right at \$5,000 in the U.S., which puts it at about half the cost of comparable capacity conventional choppers. Besides



costing half as much, the Forager is easier to maintain. If you should run a steel fence post through it, for example, it may dent but isn't likely to break up anything."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gallagher Engineering, P.O. Box 5324, Frankton, Hamilton, New Zealand (ph 071 437-189).



Look What He's Doing With Discs

"We tell farmers to try Roto-Spade discs on one-half of their conventional disk or disk plow. In most cases, the difference is so dramatic that the entire machine will sport Roto-Spade discs the following season," says Kevin Terlich, Australian farmer whose idea of welding 4½ by 6-in. metal "spades" around the outside edge of disc blades won him "Farm Inventor of the Year" honors in Australia last year.

Terlich's invention is just now going into commercial production in Australia and will soon be marketed in the U.S. and Canada.

"Roto-Spades cut through heavy trash and compacted ground without losing depth," explains Terlich. "In heavy trash, they splinter straw stems, opening them up so they rot from the inside and thus decay much faster. Conventional disc blades, on the other hand, cut the stems off clean without ripping them open and it takes them much longer to decay."

Roto-Spades will be available with companion discs for bolt-on installation, or as weld-on spades which can be purchased factory welded to new center discs, or separately for do-it-yourself welding to disc blades you already own. An 18 in. dia. disc requires six spades. It takes 8, 9 and 10 spades, respectively, for 22, 24 and 28 in. dia. discs. The spades, slated to retail for about \$1.75 each, are positioned about 2 in. in from the outer circumference of the disc, with the bottom corners as close together as possible, and no more than 3 in. of spacing at the top of the V-space between spades. No special jig is needed to weld them on to the back side of the disc blade. Blades worn thin can be strengthened by putting a worn disc behind the "spaded" disc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kevin Terlich, RMB 2, Pleasant Hills, NSW, Australia 2737 (ph 069 29644).

Low-Cost Relief For Aching Backs

"It's easy to get in and out of and doesn't restrict your movement," says the manufacturer of Back-Aid, a spring-loaded sling with a sheepskin chest belt that takes the backache out of welding, working on motors, shoveling and other jobs.

Originally designed for sheep shearers, it's catching on fast in farm workshops throughout Australia to protect against back strain and fatigue when bending over to weld, or to work on car or truck engines. Comes with three coil springs (about 3 ft. long). The center spring can be removed if not needed to support lighter persons.

Once adjusted, you enter it simply by putting your arms through the sling and leaning into the chest belt. The coil springs take 40 or more pounds of body weight off the lower



back to help prevent back strain. Sells for \$120.

Contact: W.D. Hambley Ltd., 47 Hassel Street, Mt. Barker, West Australia 6324 (ph 098 51 1402).

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