

New Ideas From Europe, New Zealand

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Photo courtesy New Zealand Herald

Have You Ever Seen A Steel Frame House?

With lumber prices skyrocketing all over the world while at the same time the quality declines, new home-building methods are starting to catch on. In New Zealand, some home contractors have ditched their hammers and nails in favor of welders and pop rivet guns to put together galvanized steel framed homes.

The photo shows a steel-framed house built recently in Auckland, New Zealand.

In addition to the steel framework shown, steel beams were also used for floor joists.

Builders who've used steel framing say that while it's lighter and easier to handle than wood, it's also less yielding so fitting some pieces into place can be more difficult. The exterior and interior of a steel-framed house can be finished conventionally.

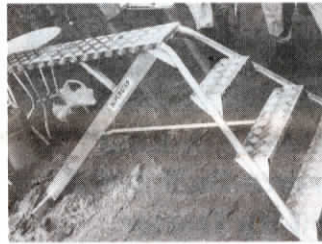
Platform Ladder Great For Orchard Work

"It's the world's best fruit picking ladder," says Gordon Bendall, Tauranga, New Zealand, about his new "Superstep" aluminum ladder with an extended platform on top.

The top step is about 5 ft. long and is braced on the angled third leg of the ladder. It can be inserted deep into a tree without causing foliage damage that can lead to disease. "You can stand on it all day comfortably because it's wide enough for your feet, unlike ordinary ladder rungs," notes Bendall.

Sells for \$195.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Gordon Bendall, Clarke Road, Te Puna, RD6, Tauranga, New Zealand (ph 07 552-5558; fax 07 552-5005).

Swath Compactor Stops Baler Plug-Ups

Compressing large straw swaths from combines can help smaller, older balers pick up windrows left by wide cutters.

The "Straw Compactor", manufactured by Ben Burgess in England, makes it possible for narrow pickups on existing balers to cope with wide windrows left by combines. Front-mounted on the tractor, the compactor consists of a simple rubber-covered roller that presses down on the top of the swath and a pair of large gathering wheels - like those found on many round balers - that can be fitted to the roller as optional equipment to pick up even larger swaths.



Flattening the swath also lets hay or straw feed more evenly into the baler, notes Burgess.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ben Burgess, England (ph 0603-628251). (Farmer's Weekly)

Fold-Up Wheelbarrow

Compact fold-up wheelbarrow stores out of the way in the corner of a garage or shop yet works great for work around the yard or garden.

Wheels are fitted with puncture-proof tires and sealed bearings. The polyester fabric basket is coated with an all weather PVC coating and it has a back pocket for tools. The frame is made from tube steel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd Benton, 33 Heta Rd., New Plymouth, New Zealand (ph 06 7582714).



Hydraulic "Stabilizer" For Tractor 3-Pt.'s

New "stabilizer" for tractor 3-pt. hitch arms leaves the arms flexible for hooking up and then locks rigid when in operation.

Invented and marketed by Graeme Pedersen Tractor Services, Te Aroha, New Zealand, the self-contained hydraulic unit mounts between a bar at the back of the 3-pt. and a pin welded inside the hitch arm.

The cylinder has equal displacement on each side of the piston. When hooking up to equipment, you open the valve and the stabilizer moves freely as the hitch arm moves back and forth. Once the implement is attached and adjusted to the correct position, you turn the valve off, closing off the flow of oil between sides of the cylinder, and the stabilizer cylinder is held rigid.

Graeme Pedersen would like to hear from



U.S. or Canadian importers.

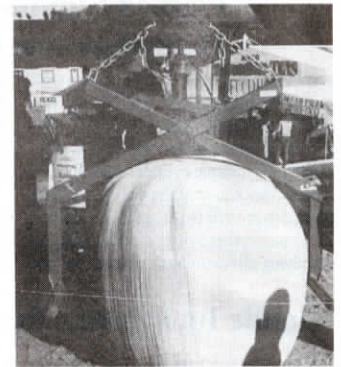
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Graeme Pedersen Tractor Services, 54 Rewi Street, Te Aroha, New Zealand (ph 07 8847921).

"Puncture-Proof" Wrapped Bale Handler

New Zealand farmer Winston McJorow came up with a simple scissor-type handler for wrapped silage bales that won't puncture the plastic.

It hangs from a loader bucket by a pair of chains. A trip lever at center keeps the jaws of the handler separated as it's lowered down over the bale. A trip cord runs back to the operator so, when the jaws are in position to grab the bale, he pulls the cord and lifts the loader. To release, you just drop the loader to take the pressure off and swing it away.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Winston McJorow, RD 4, Tauwhare Rd., Hamilton (ph 07 8295613).



Round Bale "Shower Caps"

There's no need to wrap plastic around the circumference of round bales to keep them dry in the field, says New Zealander Kerry Wheeler. All you need is an elastic-fitted "shower cap" that simply covers the top end of the bale.

Wheeler's caps cover bales up to 6 ft. in dia., held in place by an elastic cord sewn into the edge. You can also spike the covers down through eyelets around the edges.

The caps keep water out of the center of the bale and can be used on just the top bale of a 2 or 3-bale stack, if desired. Wheeler says there's less waste - since the caps are reusable - and less expense with no need for a special bale-wrapping machine.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kerry



Wheeler, Wheeler & Dodds, 355 Kahikatea Drive, Hamilton, New Zealand (ph 071 8476126).



Fold-Up Pontoon Boat

First-of-its-kind pontoon boat built in New Zealand has a remote control electric winch that opens and shuts the boat in minutes.

Built-in wheels wind up or down with jacks and can be easily removed in water. The drawbar built into the front of the boat also removes quickly in the water.

The sides of the fold-up boat are raised and lowered by steel cable that runs over a post at the center of the boat. When folded, the boat is just 4 1/2 ft. wide. Unfolded

width is 10 ft. It's 20 ft. long and weighs 1,430 lbs. so it can be towed by a small vehicle. The boat can carry up to 6,600 lbs. in water. Seating equipment is available (model shown is designed for commercial cargo use).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Myark Marine Limited, 27 Grayson Ave., Papatoetoe, Auckland, New Zealand (ph 279 4266; fax 277 6694).