

# Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe

Featured here are just a few "best of the show" ideas which caught Editor Mark Newhall's eye at the recent International Exposition of Agricultural Machinery (EIMA) held in Bologna, Italy. More than 1,500 exhibitors from 30 countries exhibited over 17,000 pieces of equipment. The EIMA show is unusual in that all equipment is organized into categories so that all combines are exhibited together, all tractors, balers, cultivators, chisel plows, etc., so visitors can compare all makes of equipment in one place.



## Round Baler Mounts On New Holland Combine

You can do two jobs at once by mounting a big round baler on the back of your combine, says Italian baler manufacturer Lerda Machines who, at the request of a customer, specially-adapted one of its innovative round balers to fit the back of a New Holland TR85.

The customer, Giuliano Brothers, was primarily interested in baling vine-type crop residue when harvesting crops like edible peas and beans on their farm near Cuneo, Italy. However, they say the idea would

also work to bale straw when harvesting small grains, cornstalks or possibly even to direct-cut hay and make high-moisture silage bales, which would require modification of the interior workings of the combine so hay could pass through undamaged. It might be a great way to self-propel a haying operation, say company representatives.

Lerda says the TR85 has plenty of hydraulics to operate the all-hydraulic baler. An in-cab monitor makes it easy for the operator to control formation and ejection

of bales. The company designed heavy-duty mounting brackets to attach the baler to the back of the combine, removing the baler's undercarriage and taking the straw chopper and spreader off the back of the combine. The baler can be quickly removed and the combine converted back to normal operation when desired.

The Lerda baler is ideal for the combine setup because it features a unique bale rotation chamber made up of a series of fixed rollers supported by bearings. Rollers at-

tach to chains that pull them in a continuous rotation around the bale chamber, eliminating wrapping problems and applying more pressure to bales than conventional belt or conventional roller-type bale chambers, according to the manufacturer. It's designed to handle straw and cornstalks as easily as quality hay.

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## Machine "Pre-Compacts" Hay, Straw

First-of-its-kind "pre-compact" for hay and straw was shown for the first time at the EIMA show in Bologna, Italy. It's designed to boost density of hay and straw bales 15 to 40 percent by pre-compacting windrows ahead of the baler.

It was developed as a joint project between a government research group and a private company, which hopes to complete testing in 1993. Although the first prototype developed operates by itself in a separate pass through the field, the company - which makes round balers - says it eventually plans to mount pre-compactors on the front of its balers.

The machine is fitted with a normal pickup

which feeds cut hay or straw to a pair of horizontally-mounted high-speed rollers that rotate toward each other. The rollers "condition" the hay or straw, breaking down fibers, and throw it at high speed out a back chute into a tight windrow. By breaking down the straw and blowing it into tighter windrows, Gallignani says balers can make significantly heavier bales, which is especially important in Europe where high-yielding grain crops produce tremendous volumes of straw.

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## Robot Mower "Grazes" Lawn Like A Sheep

"It's probably the most fantastic lawn mower ever built. Everyone in the world will want one," says French journalist Raoul Colin who was the first to tell FARM SHOW about this just-introduced new solar-powered robot mower that works unattended, grazing away at your lawn like a sheep.

Manufactured in Belgium, the "Solar Turtle" works its way slowly around a lawn, bouncing back from obstacles and moving on to other uncut grass. You put it out on the lawn in the spring and take it off in the fall. It's totally automatic, keeping your lawn at a pre-set height without refueling and requires virtually no maintenance, according to A. Colens, sales representative.

The mower weighs just over 10 lbs. thanks to the way the bank of solar cells on top direct-drives the mower blades. No need for a battery since the mower only works when the sun is shining.

Electronic sensors shut the mower down if grass is too wet for mowing. Sensors also sense approaching obstacles such as buildings, trees, fences, shrubs, etc., turning the mower away and sending it back over the lawn looking for uncut grass (On yards without a natural boundary to turn the mower, you run a simple underground wire that sends a signal to the mower as it approaches. The underground wire is charged by a solar unit.) It can also sense the height of grass so once all grass has been cut to the preset height, it'll shut down.



The mower is fitted with extra-sharp tungsten blades that turn so slowly they pose no threat of injury to people but turn just fast enough to cut grass. The mower moves ahead at a maximum speed of 1 1/2 ft. per second and can work slopes as steep as 30°.

"It's reliable and simple. You just put it out in the yard and let it go to work," says Colens.

No price was yet available at press time on the mower, which is already on the market on a limited basis.

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