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## **Industry News**

### **2009 Farm Progress Show Pulls 'Em In**



Willie Vogt, editorial director, **PowerIron**

Flying over the Farm Progress Show this year (which you really can't do) would have been an eye-opener. The show was packed for 2009, even in a year when many are concerned about the economy. Agriculture remains solid — on many fronts — and farmers know the rising value of keeping up with new technology.

Record crowds, fantastic weather and an abundance of new technology gave visitors plenty to talk about. Read on and you'll see eight products that members of our Farm Show Products Team picked as their favorites. Very interesting.



**This bird's-eye view of the 2009 Farm Progress Show gives you a pretty good idea of the scope of this big event. Next year the show returns to the Boone, Iowa, site Aug. 31 and Sept. 1-2.**

## Bobcat Consolidates Production to Gwinner

Equipment innovator Bobcat is pulling in its claws a bit and consolidating manufacturing in the company's original Gwinner, S.D., plant, which means the Bismarck, N.D., operation will close by the end of this year. The Bismarck plant is where Bobcat currently makes mini-excavators, the Toolcat utility work machine, the S70 skid-steer loader and mini-track loaders. All other Bobcat equipment is made in Gwinner.

Over the next three months, 475 production positions will end at the Bismarck facility, but as many as 390 jobs will remain in North Dakota to accommodate the consolidation, according to the company. Bismarck will retain 150 positions across a number of areas that are unaffected by the move, including product engineering, finance and aftermarket parts. The Bobcat Manufacturing Support Center will remain in Bismarck.

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## Agco Eyes Africa for Market Expansion

Where does a farm equipment company look these days to expand? For Agco the answer may be Africa. The company is reportedly looking at the continent with an eye toward potential, according to a report in *Engineering News*. Agco figures that about 11% of the world's arable land is in Africa, and about 86% of that remains uncultivated. Agco is looking at some major potential there, given that only 10% of the power on African farms comes from engines, while only 5% of the land is properly irrigated, according to the report.

Mechanizing agriculture on the African continent would boost the potential for food production and increase market share for Agco as well. The company is emphasizing that rising world food demand is an opportunity for African farms to fill a void and help the region's countries become more self-sufficient. Mechanizing those farms would be an important part of that process.

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## Bush Hog Assets Sold to Alamo Group

The venerable Bush Hog name joins the Alamo Group this month with the announcement that assets and liabilities for the Selma, Ala., company have been acquired by Alamo. The move brings the ongoing business of Bush Hog, including the brand name and all related product lines and trademarks, into the Alamo fold. The purchase is expected to close within 90 days.

Bush Hog will continue to manufacture its diverse line of products — from rotary cutters to front-end loaders, backhoes and utility vehicles — at the Selma, Ala., facility, which is included in the acquisition. Once the deal is final, Bush Hog will become part of Alamo's North American Agricultural Division. Learn more about the line at [www.bushhog.com](http://www.bushhog.com).



## Return of a Familiar Name

A name we'd heard of in the past returned during the 2009 Farm Progress Show. Does anyone remember the IH Scout? Well, Case IH has a new one. Learn more in this [blog installment](#).

## Eight Products Worth a Closer Look



Dan Crummett, executive editor, **PowerIron**

Faced with 80 acres of the latest in agriculture equipment, you need to find the newest and pick a couple of favorites. Quite a challenge?

Four Farm Progress editors accepted that challenge at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Ill., recently. They included Tom Bechman, *Indiana Prairie Farmer*, Dan Crummett, executive editor, **PowerIron**; Josh Flint, *Prairie Farmer*; and Pam Golden, *Southern Farmer*.

Here are two favorites from each:

### Pam's pride



Michael and Walter Curry were among the Canadian inventors challenged to make a removable cover for a compost reactor 20 feet wide by 10 feet deep and one-half mile long. Now the Bio-Retractable Cover, a double-coated polyethylene weave with the patented Poly-Fastener System, is available in the U.S. to seal a hole, inside or out, from 3 to 30 feet. It should work for covering chicken litter or controlling manure odors. No pricing is available yet. Contact Curry Industries Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, 204-661-1729, or visit [www.curryindustries.com](http://www.curryindustries.com).



Topcon teams with Yara to add a prescription feature to its new nitrogen sensor. The CropSpec On-The-Go works with the X20 GPS+ Control Console Precision Agriculture System to give growers on-the-go variable-rate N application or to create custom maps. An interface with historical crop data from Yara gives growers recommendations based on plant performance. CropSpec sensors are mounted on the cab and use a pulsed laser to hone in on specific wavelengths of light in the leaf. Suggested list price for two sensors with the X20 display is

\$25,000. Contact Topcon, Livermore, Calif., 925-245-8300, or visit [www.topconpositioning.com](http://www.topconpositioning.com).

## Flint's finest



When planting along slopes, implements insist on following the rules of gravity. The True Tracker system steers the implement. Steering can be accomplished many ways, including a coulters system from Orthman. Coulters act like rudders, steering the implement back in line. The system runs on real-time kinematic positioning, so expect sub-inch accuracy. True Tracker costs \$10,000 to \$13,000, depending upon options. Call Trimble, Sunnyvale, Calif., at 800-865-7438 or visit [www.trimble.com/agriculture](http://www.trimble.com/agriculture).



With GSI's new Modular Tower Dryer, flexibility is the name of the game. It's shipped in sections, five for the TM-1008, eight for the TM-1015. GSI's Gary Woodruff says it can be erected in one day. Users can vary the portion of the dryer that's in the cooling mode. "If you've got 30%-moisture corn, you don't need a third of the dryer cooling," Woodruff says. The TM-1088 rates at 900 bushels per hour, at 20% cooling, and retails at \$132,000. The TM-1015 rates at 1,690 bph and lists at \$240,000. Call GSI, Assumption, Ill., at 217-226-BINS or visit [www.gsiag.com](http://www.gsiag.com).

## Dan's dandies



Precision planting's new Wave Vision Sensor uses radio frequency waves to monitor seeds with unparalleled, three-dimensional accuracy. The sensor detects when two seeds fall simultaneously. This system isn't fooled by dust, like conventional seed counters, so the sensing unit can be placed in a number of positions. The Wave Vision Sensor and tube cost \$120 each. Call Precision Planting, Tremont, Ill., at 309-925-5050 or visit [www.precisionplanting.com](http://www.precisionplanting.com).



The new M126X midsize tractor from Kubota sports independently oscillating crawler tracks riding on two pairs of floating bogeys for unprecedented efficiency, plus gentleness to soils. Power comes from a Tier III, four-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine. This Power Krawler offers increased stability, field speed and traction in the 100-horsepower class. Tracked Kubotas have been the norm in Japan for 10 years. The M126X weighs 11,460 pounds and lists for \$77,000. Call Kubota Tractor Corp., Torrance, Calif., at 319-370-3370 or visit [www.kubota.com](http://www.kubota.com).

## Tom's toughies



Miller Nitro sprayers are known for ruggedness. Now Miller adds even more customer convenience to its sleek, new Condor G series. The loading area is redesigned, and the transmission is repositioned for even more reliability. The hood tips forward for better access to either a 240- or 275-horsepower, 6.7-liter Cummins engine. The machine is based on mechanical drive, with hydraulically controlled front-wheel assist available. Choose from either the G75 model with a 1,200-gallon tank or the G40 with a 1,000-gallon tank. List price for the larger machine is in the \$210,000 to \$220,000 range. Call Miller-St. Nazianz Inc., St. Nazianz, Wis., at 800-247-5557 or visit [www.millerstn.com](http://www.millerstn.com).



You've got your 1-ton truck bed loaded, and you need a wrench. Darn it — your toolbox is up front, so now what? It's no problem with the Quick Draw Toolbox because it literally comes to you, rolling out 60% of its overall length in either direction. It features a powder-coat finish and comes with a fire extinguisher. Add your favorite optional tool caddies. List price is \$899. Contact Haven Mfg., Smith Center, Kan., at 785-282-5260 or visit [www.havenmfg.com](http://www.havenmfg.com).

## Keep Your Eye on These Items for 2010

By Dan Crummett

While hustling the northeastern quadrant of the Farm Progress Show for new products, I ran onto a couple of items of interest that weren't priced yet or aren't really "new products," but bear mention in the FPS edition of **PowerIron**.

First, **Michelin** is offering its **Ag Advantage Program**, which allows buyers an \$80 cash rebate per agricultural tire for purchases made between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30. Coupons for the offer are at your Michelin dealer and cover purchases from two to 12 tires — up to \$960.

**Agco**, too, is in the rebate business, extending its summer 15W40 Premium Engine Oil rebate to Oct. 16, allowing customers to claim 50 cents per quart — up to \$25 in rebates.

Dick Wauer, company parts marketing manager, says the rebates are available at Agco, Massey Ferguson and Challenge dealerships across the U.S. and Canada, and they apply to 1-quart, 1-gallon, 2.5-gallon and 5-gallon containers.

Additional information on the rebate program is available at [www.agcoparts.com](http://www.agcoparts.com) at the "maintenance page."



Another upgrade on the tractor front is the new-from-the-factory cab installed on **Mahindra's** 8560 85-horsepower tractor. The specs are the same as the platform tractor, but the factory cab will be attractive to many new buyers.

**Where You Buy Is As Important As What You Buy** — Dan Crummett looks at getting service on brand name equipment at retailers with farm and nonfarm clientele. [A Tale of Two Dealers.](#)

## **New Products**

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### **Rhino Offers New Swift Rakes**



New 10- and 12-foot crop-driven wheel rakes added to lineup — [Rhino Rake.](#)

### **Deep Tillage and Residue Control from M&W**



Earthmaster 10 series comes in four models — [till here.](#)

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### Dawn Offers New Independent Row Cleaner



GFX mounts to planter frame, not row unit — [GFX details](#).

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### Summers Mfg. Launches New Folding Rolling Chopper



Hydraulic power unfolds chopper which comes in widths from 12-53 feet – [rolling chopper](#).