

New products at the Agrosalon

Hot issues:

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- ✓ The Valley sprinklers offer the longest service life, p. 9



New products



This year AgroCentre continued its fast growth. Among other things, it expanded the network of its divisions, opening service centres in the Penza, Chelyabinsk and Kurgan oblasts. It also plans to start building a large science and technology park in the Lipetsk oblast. It has acquired new partners, such as the Kolnag (potato production machines) and Valley companies (irrigation equipment). The range of its spare parts is growing steadily and their delivery time frame is getting shorter. The amount of special offers and discount sales of equipment and spares has also grown.

"This year we demonstrated excellent results, supplying farmers with 1,400 units of self-propelled and mounted equipment to the tune of more than 3 billion rubles",

says Nikolay Ivanishchev, AgroCentre-Holding LLC



director general. "This attests to the farmers' willingness to

The Agrosalon-2012 dedicated agricultural exhibition brought together more than 300 manufacturers of farm machines. They introduced Russian farmers to the newest and "smartest" equipment. AgroCentre used the exhibition to show off the results of its work and plans for the future. True to tradition, it arranged for customer visits to its partners' stands.

modernise their production by acquiring modern machines and introducing new technologies in order to be competitive on the market. We help farmers to avoid getting lost in the world of agricultural equipment and to make the right choice for their farms with

RoGator 1100 sprinklers. They are fitted with a perfect sprinkling system that has no counterparts in the world. High sprinkling precision is achieved by delivering the working fluid to adjacent sprinklers with a pressure difference of only 0.07 bars even on the longest boom

due regard to the scale of their production, the technologies employed and the strategic goals ahead".

The excursion started with a visit to the AGCO exhibition stand. The company presented over 20 units of self-propelled and mounted equipment for all types of field work. Among them were new products like the Challenger

with width spray coverage of 36.5 m. The new sprinklers are multi-purpose machines. They can be used for introducing both liquid chemicals and granulated mineral fertilisers. RoGator is the first system to be powered by the AGCO Power engine that has reduced fuel consumption by 6%.

Another debut was a new generation of series MT500D Challenger tractors. These feature a new engine and a more comfortable cabin (more details on page 6). Beginning this year, series D tractors have been assembled in Russia. The upgraded Challenger 647C grain combine harvester got a new engine, AGCO Power (267 hp) and a permanent residence in Russia. For the first time, AGCO



at the Agrosalon



came up with a Challenger 6600 vertical tilling system which is excellently suited for work in Siberian conditions.

can till the soil down to a depth of 15 cm. It also became possible to change the discs' angle of attack".

JCB demonstrated a wide range of new loaders. The upgraded JCB 527-58 Agri loader made its first appearance here. This

was created expressly for work on poultry farms.

"The developers added new options", says Semyon Kostin, JCB business adviser on farming equipment in Russia and the CIS. "These include blue headlights that don't disturb the birds and reduce their stress, heated mirrors, 2,000 mm forks for removing fowl crates and a large 1.6 cubic metre bucket for loading and unloading grain, fowl fodder and droppings".

The farmers watched a new telescopic loader, the Loadall 550-80 Agri Plus. It is the strongest in its class and is capable of lifting a 5 tonne load to a height of 8 metres. The Powershift transmission enables the machine to move at a speed of up to 40 km/h. Another especially popular new product was the JCB PowerBoom 260 mini-loader. Thanks to a unique design, the PowerBoom uses a single boom jib instead of the traditional double boom type. The single boom machine is less of a hindrance to the operator's all-round observation, making the work site safer and the operator's job more productive.

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At the Vaderstad exhibition stand, farmers familiarised themselves with the Tempo F8 seeder, the most precise machine in its class, employing a new seed embedding technology. Based on this, the seeds are "ejected" from the seed chute at a speed of 40m/s. This minimises vibration impact and maintains exceptional seeding precision despite the high speed and soil irregularities. Tempo F8 was awarded the silver medal of the exhibition for employing a unique high pressure batcher that assures high speed seeding with unprecedented precision.

Vaderstad presented new discs for the Carrier cultivator.

"The new discs feature a larger diameter (610 mm instead of 540)", says Artyom Ozhogin, sales manager of the Tyumen branch of AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. "As a result, the cultivator



Representatives of Kverneland held a training session for specialists of AgroCentreZakharovo in use of their Airseeder machine, which can perform as a seeder in a direct seeding function or as cultivator.

This Australian-designed machine is now also assembled at the Kverneland plant in Lipetsk. Kverneland specialists say that Russian farmers give high praise to Airseeder as an undemanding system. Work in the Orenburg oblast has shown that the machine can operate in difficult conditions, offering high reliability and long service life.

Airseeder is a combined tool for tilling soil and direct seeding. The machine is multi-functional, i.e. it can easily turn from a seeder into a non-selective cultivator for tilling the soil down to 15 cm. The cultivator tynes are arranged in 5 rows, which ensures good passage of plant residues. The cultivator roll-on section has six rolls measuring 80 to 120 cm in width. Normally, a coverer is used for treating stubble and fallow land.

“Combined with the Airseeder bin (6,000-8,000 l) the cultivator is a highly efficient machine for direct seeding



of grain crops and herbs with simultaneous introduction of fertilisers”, says Pyotr Trofimenko, equipment sales manager of the Chelyabinsk branch of AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. “The bin is divided into two containers, one in the rear for

fertilisers, another in front for seeds. The seed and fertiliser batching varies from 2 to 400 kg per hectare”.

The Airseeder machine with an operating width of 9, 12, and 14 metres and the inter-row

spacing of 180, 225 and 270 mm is fitted with three types of coulters. They are a hoe coulters, a disc coulters and a duckfoot. Due to its unique design, the Airseeder can operate in all regions of Russia.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

Quality, English style



AgroCentre arranged a traditional trip for its customers to the JCB loader manufacturing plant in England. The Russian farmers watched the assembly of the telescopic loaders that had caught their fancy.

The English colleagues demonstrated virtually the entire range of loaders, from telescopic and frontal to mini-types. The guests were surprised by the large scale and high efficiency of the manufacturing process.

“Russian farmers like JCB loaders for their impeccable quality, reliability and strength”, says Sergey Chichay, head of the Chelyabinsk branch of AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. “We’ve seen the machines in the making. The plant uses state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment for laser-aided metal cutting, robot-controlled tools and fully automated assembly lines”.

The guests visited a large training centre where experts give classes in maintenance of telescopic loaders.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

AN EVENT

The ubiquitous telescopic loaders

Among the Russian regions, the Belgorod oblast leads in the production of meat and poultry. At the BelgorodExpo exhibition, AgroCentreLiski specialists presented the JCB 531-70 farming loader and its "smaller brother". The two machines do the complete range of loading and unloading jobs on stockbreeding and poultry farms.

The JCB 531-70 telescopic loader is a compact, agile and reliable machine. Due to such assets, it can be used for many jobs on all types of stockbreeding farms, including those built during the Soviet era. AgroCentreLiski also offered a new product for poultry breeding enterprises, the improved 527-58 AGRI loader measuring 2x2 m. It easily enters space-constrained buildings with narrow access ways. The loading capacity of the machine is 2.7 tonnes; the lifting height is 5.8 metres. Another new

product from AgroCentre and JCB is the Try-and-Buy programme under which each agricultural enterprise can lease for free the JCB 5000 loader and try it out at its facilities.

"We lease out the loaders to farmers so that they can realise how simple these machines are to use and maintain. We have calculated the payback period and the feasibility of the purchase", says Denis Tarasenko, AgroCentreLiski regional manager.

By Yulia SALKOVA



"The opening of a modern service centre is a transition to a new level of professional partnership with the Chelyabinsk farmers", says Sergey Chichay, head of the Chelyabinsk branch of AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. "The availability in the region of our own servicing facilities will make it possible to repair agricultural machines promptly and efficiently,

With renewed energy

Among AgroCentre's activities, the top priority is development of a network of service centres. Today ten maintenance centres operate in the regions. One more will be opened in December in the Chelyabinsk oblast.



which will stabilise our farmers' work and convince them of their operating capabilities".

The new dealership comprises service workshops (580 sq.m), a spare parts depot (250 sq.m), a demonstration site, classrooms

and a sales room. The convenient location of the service centre next to the federal thoroughfare M5 will enable farmers to quickly reach "the technical first aid station" from any place in the oblast. At the service centre,

farmers will be able to make use of the company's new service, a test drive, and experience for themselves the self-propelled equipment from Challenger.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

Betting on service

Twelve companies engaged in the supply of agricultural equipment for the Kursk oblast gathered at a seminar dedicated to re-equipment of the farming industry.

Deputy Chairman of the Kursk government Aleksey Zolotaryov pointed out that at present only seven suppliers use adequately outfitted service centres for warranty repair and post-warranty maintenance.

"We seek to establish a system under which high quality farm machines would not only be sold in our region but would subsequently get adequate servicing", he said.

The "magnificent seven" includes the Kursk branch of

AgroCentreLiski LLC which had long won over local farmers by its professionalism and impeccable service. Incidentally, at the seminar the company demonstrated samples of the equipment it supplies, i.e. the Russian-built Challenger MT 685D (340-370 hp) tractor with the Vaderstad Top Down five metre stubble cultivator.

"Top Down is a highly efficient combined tool", explains Aleksandr Usov, senior equipment sales manager of



AgroCentreKursk LLC. "Actually, this is a combination of three machines, i.e. a disc tiller, a cultivator with chisel-shaped supports and levelling discs,

and a powerful steel covering roller. By virtue of its multiple functions this tool is an ideal appliance for seeding!"

By Yekaterina GALUSHKINA

A new power standard



The Challenger MT500D, MT565D and MT585D tractors powered by AGCO Power engines (185 and 220 hp) set a new standard of power and economical efficiency. Fitted with the third generation CommonRail fuel system, the new engines feature higher efficiency and better response, which assures maximum power at reduced fuel consumption. They comply with the Tier 2 environmental requirements and regulations operative in the Eastern European countries. The 6.6 litre AGCO Power engines on the MT565D model and 7.4 litre engine on MT585D ensure

AGCO presents a new generation of tractors, the series MT500D Challenges, on the Russian market.

maximum operating range. Thus, the speed of the tractor movement remains unchanged no matter what it does, ploughs, cultivates or sows. The power amplification system, which electronically controls the engine and transmission, automatically adjusts the amount of energy transmitted to the wheels and power take-off shaft. Such an arrangement makes the machines highly productive on the field and in transportation. The power is adjusted automatically at a speed of 5 km/h and above.

The MT500D tractors are fitted with increased capacity fuel tanks, 475 l instead of 370 as on previous models.

The new "fifth series" tractors feature an upgraded cabin. The engineers have improved the range of vision from the cabin and enlarged it. The basic component package also includes an air conditioner and a driver seat with pneumatic suspension, which significantly cushions the shocks.

The MT565D and MT585D tractors are fitted with a new

Tractor Management Centre (TMC). This includes a sensor-aided monitor and an instrument panel, previously installed only on the older series machines, a right-hand support with extra functions, a new elbow rest with some controls and a multi-functional joystick. All of this provides greater comfort for the operator, enabling him to fully control all the operations.

The Challenger MT565D and MT585D tractors are offered to the Russian and Eastern European markets in two versions, the more economical *Essential* and more functional *Efficient* for more effective work.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

Heavy-weights in the ring

AGCO has developed the new series CH 1700 Challenger off-set heavy disc harrows expressly for tilling difficult, compacted soils.

Due to the large diameter (711-762 mm) concave discs and a very high specific weight per single unit (up to 200 kg), the new harrows easily cut hard soil layers and big crop residues. The offset arrangement of disc batteries ensures a clear cut and excellent soil levelling.

"The series CH 1700 Challenger disc harrows are second to none on the field", says Nikolay Bashkirov, head of the orders department at AgroCentreZakharovo LLC. "The frames of those

'heavies' are made from extra strong steel pipes, enabling the machines to withstand high loads during soil tilling".

The twin wheels stabilise the machine during intense operation and ensure a regular tilling depth. The rigid supports are specifically designed for high loads up to 1,486 kg per metre and penetration down to 19 cm. The disc batteries consist of heavy discs 8 mm thick with a smooth or serrated edge. The angle of incidence of the front and rear batteries can be changed easily, for



which one needs only to slightly slacken the battery bolts, set the required angle and then tighten the fastening bolts again. The multiple-purpose

lifting system ensures a smooth penetration of tools into the soil and excellent tilling depth.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

The Single of a new seeding season



Reliability, versatility and simplicity are indisputable advantages of the Challenger Single Disc Drill pneumatic seeder and the reason why farmers prefer it to all others.

The special feature of this machine is the use of a patented technology of juxtaposed single discs which raise and remove the soil between 15 cm rows. The loosened soil is moved from the juxtaposed discs back to the roll-on wheel, which levels and compacts soil on the furrow. Such removal of the soil prevents the compacting of the lateral side and penetration of stubble into the furrow, thus contributing to regular sprouting.

"The Challenger pneumatic

seeders are simple to use and suitable for zero-, minimal or traditional tilling technologies", says Aleksandr Usov, sales manager of the Kursk branch of AgroCentreLiski LLC. "To change the operating mode, the operator doesn't need to leave the tractor cabin. Disc pressure is regulated by the onboard computer, not manually as on most counterparts".

The introduction of seeds and fertilisers is controlled by modern onboard computers. Their basic

component package includes sensors for controlling batcher shaft, bin filling level, batcher fouling, machine movement speed and fan rotation. The counters of sown area and seed consumption enable monitoring the operation with great precision. In addition, the Challenger Single Disc Drill seeder is adapted to the ISOBUS system, which ensures operation by using the tractor's onboard computer. The Pristenskaya Grain Company (Kursk oblast) is one of AgroCentre's permanent

customers and knows the advantages of the Challenger pneumatic seeder based on its own experience.

"Today our company uses two Challenger Single Disc Drill systems", says Roman Shubin, the chief engineer. "In this season we used them to sow around 4,500 hectares of triticale and barley. The seeder is simple to use, closely follows the terrain features and evenly embeds seeds. Due to this the sprouts come out like in a picture!"

By Yekaterina GALUSHKINA

Classical spirit in modern life

This year, the Spirit appeared for the first time on our farms, immediately intriguing farmers with its variety of component packages that enable it to be used with different tilling technologies.

The component package with the Crossboard tool is designed for work on ploughed land. After ploughing it will bring the soil to perfection and doesn't need much power.

The System Disc Aggressive (double row disc cultivator) is for work on farms which do not use the plough before seeding but employ cultivators (such as Carrier or Top Down). The package with this tool is used at the final stage of tilling, during seeding itself. The discs crush the matter well, mixing the upper soil layer and forming the seeding bed.

A knowledgeable agronomist chooses a tilling and seeding method based on the specifics of the field dealt with. The somewhat conservative or classical method may be good for one field, while another needs the current no-till technique. The new Spirit pneumatic seeder from Vaderstad, Sweden, can employ both of these technologies with equal success.



The package may include both the Crossboard and the System Disc Aggressive systems. Such "a mix" is for farms employing combined tilling technologies.

The Spirit is manufactured with

an operating width of 4, 6, 8 and 9 metres. The seed bin capacity is 3,740 l on the four- and six-metre models and 3,900 l on eight- and nine-metre models. This means that one filling provides for seeding an area of

15-30 hectares.

Like all Vaderstad tools, the seeder is a high-speed machine. It operates perfectly at 20 km/h, which, combined with a wide grip, makes it more productive than many wide-grip seeding tools.

Says Pavel Vilchinsky, Vaderstad-Verken AB regional representative in Russia:

"The Spirit showed excellent sprouting results in Europe. The tests in Russia proved the same. The seeder ideally compacts the soil, which largely contributes to even sprouting. The V-shaped seeding discs move the soil aside, introducing the seed into the bed at a regularly equal depth. The Spirit is not as heavy as the stubble cultivator. So, the nine-metre model will go fine with a tractor of 300 hp and above".

By Yulia SALKOVA

Kolnag: optimum price and suitable quality



The Russian market of potato production equipment does not offer too many models. According to Russian vegetable growers, those that have proved themselves to be fine machines often are not well balanced in terms of price. The Kolnag machines are an optimal balance of price and quality. AgroCentre supplies a complete range of potato growing equipment from this manufacturer and recommends paying attention to its most interesting models.

The MIEDEMA CP42 potato planter was first manufactured in 2010. Though “young”, the machine has already won the trust of farmers. It eases and speeds up the operator’s planting job, and contributes to regular sprouting and fast growth of the potato cluster, much to the agronomist’s

satisfaction. The unique design of the setter, i.e. a combination of a large upper roller and a maximally thin lower roller makes it possible to work at high speed and to control the planting precision. In a single pass, the MIEDEMA CP42 treats the soil, plants without omissions and doubles and forms ridges. The setter is supplied in 2, 4 or 6 row versions, mechanically or hydraulically driven. This is



fitted with a sprinkler and a granulator. The special feature of the new combination is the Smart-Float mount. This links the cutting mill to the setter and strictly controls the treatment depth. Just as “smart” is the MR-Control automatic device that maintains the steady ridge volume.

After ploughing, the field often looks as though it were covered with even cobble stones. So, one can’t do without a cultivator here. The CELLI Ranger 300 and CELLI Energy 400 are among the most popular cultivators for soil treatment. They perform four operations at a time: loosening, mixing, levelling, and compacting. The CELLI Ranger 300 is used for continuous pre-seeding treatment of the soil down to a depth of up to 30 cm. Just before treatment of the soil for potato planting, it is possible

to choose dominators with an operating width of 1 to 7 metres (including on the folding frame). These ensure fine soil levelling, loosening and crushing.

The Kolnag Rumstad RSF 2000 cultivator/bund former raises the soil, crushes lumps and lays out a tight ridge in which potatoes grow. As the ridges are cut, the weeds are destroyed, the soil becomes looser and the stolon growth is stimulated, thereby increasing crop yield. The ridges formed by the cultivator retain their shape all through the vegetation period, while the finely lumped structure is ideal for development of the seed bed. If a beater shaft is installed instead of milling hooks, it becomes possible to use the cultivator on stone-littered soil. The cultivator links to tractors of 120 hp and above.

By Yulia SALKOVA

This year, AgroCentre became an official dealer of Kolnag, the famous manufacturer of vegetable growing equipment. In the 15 years of its operation, the enterprise has gradually moved from licensed “knock-down” assembly to its own production of 14 types of machines that are not inferior in terms of quality to Western counterparts and are comparable in terms of price to Russian competitions.

How to profit from rain

Irrigation equipment has reduced many farmers' dependence on external factors and increased the efficiency of farming business. This year, AgroCentre became a dealer of Valmont, the world's pioneer in irrigation systems. **Maxim Shchukin, an expert on irrigation systems with AgroCentreZakharovo LLC**, speaks about the advantages and efficiency of the irrigation equipment in today's agriculture.

— The US-made Valley sprinkling systems excellently withstand daily operating loads, precisely delivering water and manoeuvring over the field in very diverse conditions. To attain the best effect, all Valley systems are designed with regard to individual needs of each farm.

On receiving a request, our expert goes to the customer, uses the GPS to draw up a plan of the field, finds out the annual average rainfall in the locality and types of soil, and obtains information about the crops the farmer intends to grow. Taking into account these data, he designs a system, calculates the rate and intensity of sprinkling, and determines the optimal length of the structure which will assure maximum coverage of the field.

Each extra hectare under sprinkling increases the productivity without changing appreciably the cost of the system. Depending on the crop being grown, the sprinkling effect may increase many times over.

For example, the yield of potatoes may grow by 2 to 2.5 times. Maize also shows good results, with incremental production reaching 280%, while that for sugar beet is 100%. The wheat indicators are the lowest, not exceeding 67%. The sprinkling of fodder crop fields is also an important issue. Any stockbreeding farm growing its own fodders runs the risk of a crop failure in a droughty year. Fodder procurement will increase the production cost of dairy products, which will directly impact the profitability of the farming enterprise itself.

— Which sprinkling systems are particularly efficient?

— Farmers should choose their sprinkling equipment carefully. The Valley circular and frontal sprinkling systems assure large coverage and thus reduce per hectare sprinkling cost. If the equipment is chosen incorrectly, the farmer will face the growth of operating costs and impossibility of long-term efficient planning.

For example, the sprinkling of one or

several 20-30 hectare fields can be done by using spool-aided systems which are mobile and reduce the initial investments in sprinkling. However, if the sprinkled area is several hundred hectares large, the spool system will increase the costs and spending on servicing, power and water consumption several-fold. This will boost the purchasing price of pumping stations and their maintenance cost since the spool's operating pressure is double that of any circular or frontal Valley system.

— What is the productivity of the different Valley sprinkling systems?

— A single circular system with a 500 m radius can sprinkle a field measuring more than 78 hectares, while one with a radius of 600 m does this on a 113 hectare field. Each of them can replace several spool systems. This doesn't include the labour input, mind you! A spool system operating on the field needs 3 to 4 operators, whereas the sprinkling by a single radial system proceeds without extra equipment or supervisory personnel.

— How long can such systems be used?

— All Valley irrigation systems feature a long service life. They successfully operate for 25 to 30 years! Sure enough, such reliability must be indicated in planning the investment payoff, which is calculated for several years ahead.

— What is the payback period of the Valley sprinkling systems?

— Many farms that have acquired the Valley sprinkling systems could recoup their spending already in the first year of their use. For example, without sprinkling the average potato yield is 10 tonnes per hectare. Use of the Valley sprinklers will increase the productivity to 20 tonnes. At the product selling price of 8,000 rubles per tonne, with sprinkling of 72 hectares (the average size of the field for one system) the increment will be 160,000 rubles from 1 ha. In this case, the sprinkling system and the entire infrastructure (design, construction, equipment and components) will pay for itself within a year. In the following years the profit will keep growing both due to the increased yield and to reduced loss during drought. Correct crop rotation enhances the effect.

We are sure that by choosing the right sprinkling equipment farmers get a modern tool that generally increases the rate of profitability of their farming business.

The first sprinkling systems were manufactured more than a half a century ago under the brand name of Valley. Since then, they have come a long way from the simple mechanical sprinkling machines to sophisticated systems that can be controlled from the office or by mobile phone.



By Yekaterina GALUSHKINA

Shuttles on the field



Fodder preparation is an acute issue for all stockbreeders. How do you do the job on time without compromising quality? These questions plague farmers more often than not. The experts of AgroCentre advise looking into the Challenger fodder preparation equipment as a key to success and job satisfaction.

The Challenger trailed and mounted fodder preparation systems appeared on the Russian market very recently. Farmers saw them for the first time last year at AGCO's Field Day in Tula oblast. The equipment is manufactured by the AGCO plant in Feucht (Germany). The company specialists say that they plan to start soon assembling these machines in Russia as well.

The Challenger mower-crusher, referred to as "the butterfly", is, in fact, a combination of three mowers with an operating width of 9.3 m. Each section of the mower independently follows the terrain, thus ensuring the perfect operation of the entire machine. In terms of agility, this machine outperforms all wide grip mowers. Its front

may be installed at a very high inclination angle, which contributes to ideal terrain following. The unique Drav Gard system protects the mower mechanism in the cutting disc's collision with stones.

"The indisputable advantage of the mower over its competitors is its special design", says Timur Khamidullin, marketing and fodder preparation equipment manager of AGCO Machinery LLC in Central and Eastern Europe. "The blades are driven by the hexahedral shaft. This significantly eases maintenance and shortens its duration. To this end, it's enough just to remove a faulty element and replace it".

The trailed Challenger CHM 313 TR-KC/RC mower-crushers with finger- or roll-aided crushing

system are designed for mowing and crushing grass. The modular cutting tool with large discs cuts clean. The discs are driven by conical gears, which ensure even power distribution.

The Challenger two-rotor rake-swath maker with lateral swath formation is a unique machine. It can make two small swathes, one big or a double one during the return trip across the field. In operation, the machine rotors overlap. This ensures excellent transfer of hay and swath formation in different operating conditions. A special system of even elevation prevents the lowering of front fingers during elevation and penetration of soil into the swath. The automatic hydraulic system controls the elevation and lowering of the front and rear rotors. Due to this, the swathes ideally lie

down when the machine turns.

The Challenger CHT 7706 DN multi-purpose agitator attracts farmers by its strong design and compact size. The chief attraction of the agitator is a special central system for distributing the fodder mass along the edges which saves "the valuable stuff" to the last stalk. The dents grasp the hay and neatly turn it over without damage, forming a light and loose layer of high quality material which is easy to agitate. The CHT 7706 DN agitator is a warranty of high productivity and superior performance.

These machines have not yet been used in Russia for a long time. However, they are acclaimed by farmers who tried them out on their fields.

By Anna BORDUNOVA

Nikolay Duvakin, chief engineer of Novy Put CJSC (Rostovsky district, Yaroslavl oblast):

"We bought the Challenger 1603 rake from AgroCentre last year. The machine has done its job fully. Practice shows that compared to competitors the Challenger rakes follow the terrain better. They helped to gather in 15,000 tonnes of herbage. The quality is fine. Another advantage is the special fastening of the raking tools. This is very convenient since it enables prompt replacement when the work is in full swing. Next year we're going to acquire another Challenger rake".

Aleksey Lagapov, chief engineer of YasenAgro LLC (Yarkovsky district, Tyumen oblast):

"We use over 20 imported machines of various brands on our farms. So we have a good basis for comparison. Last year we purchased tractors, butterfly mowers and the Challenger rake. This is high quality equipment. I wish to point out that we really liked the rake's performance. It literally skips over the fields like a shuttle. The machine is swift, agile and light. Its maintenance is simple. No problems at all with this equipment".



Soil treatment, Challenger style



The right choice of a soil tilling tool creates conditions for an ample harvest and helps maintain soil fertility. Among the Challenger tilling equipment, Russian farmers have already singled out and expressed strong approval of the Sunflower 1000 disc harrows and Sunflower 5000 cultivators for their high quality, innovative engineering solutions and reliability.

The Sunflower 1000 disc harrows are expressly designed for disc-aided treatment of large areas. The lightly concave blades ensure better landing, lower power consumption, lesser fouling and higher harrowing speed. The rigid scraper levers are made from high-carbon thermally treated steel, which ensures high strength and eases the cleaning of discs from stubble residue.

Says Sergey Melnikov, Podovinnoye farming cooperative, Chelyabinsk oblast:

“Our farm has used two Sunflower CH1544-45 thirteen metre disc harrows for three years now. This year, we expanded our arable lands to 21,500 hectares and it became necessary to acquire more tilling tools. We quickly set our sights on the Sunflower

harrows already tested on our fields. We bought four more, but with a smaller operating width, 8.8 metres, from AgroCentreZakharovo. This is ideal equipment for our jobs. It is strong, reliable and simple to use. In the spring, we use the harrows for surface soil treatment in order to prevent moisture evaporation. And in autumn, we use it for making the sheet mulch. We wish this equipment were manufactured in Russia and were subsidised by the government”.

Says Pavel Potaturkov, Krasnoarmeiskoye Farming Enterprise OJSC executive director:

“This summer we bought the 8.8 m Challenger Sunflower harrow and started directly to use it. During the season we treated around 2,000 hectares without any visual traces of wear. The harrow is a little inconvenient to use on dry soil, but after rain it's a real pleasure. The tool finely cuts the soil; the treatment depth reaches 15 cm. Linked to a tractor with a capacity of 335-390 hp, it can treat up to 60 hectares per shift. Indisputably, a classy harrow! We decided to acquire one more”.

Once the soil structure is optimised, it is essential to capitalise on this achievement at the next to last stage of cultivation, which largely determines the future productivity. And that's when the Challenger Sunflower 5000 cultivators “go into battle”, since they are designed mostly for use on treated soil.

Says Igor Fomin, Zashchitnoye LLC chief agronomist, Kursk oblast:

“Our farm has nearly 10,500 hectares of arable land. We were looking for a highly efficient and reliable pre-seeding treatment tool with a wide grip. Our last acquisition is the 12 m wide Challenger Sunflower 5135-40 tyned cultivator. In work on ploughed fields, it crushes the soil, loosens it and covers the crop residues, thus preparing an ideally even seed bed. The treatment depth reaches 12 cm. It should be noted that the tool's duck-foot tynes closely follow the field profile and cut the weed roots. Compared to the traditional three-section machines this wide grip tool enables us to treat in a day a much larger area”.

By Yekaterina GALUSHKINA



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New products at the Agrosalon

At the Kverneland exhibition stand, farmers saw the new DG 12000 grain seeder with an operating width of 12 m and bin capacity of 6,000 l. Its chief attraction is a new CX-Ultra coulters consisting of metallic and coat/plastic discs. The metallic disc features a small angle of attack, 3 degrees, and a smaller camber, which assures precise seed embedding at the right depth. The company presented a new smart system of automatic control for mounted and towed equipment, IM Farming. This includes several devices. One of them, the IsoMatch Tellus virtual terminal won a silver medal for its ability to monitor and control several machines at a time.



At the Kolnag exhibition stand, potato growers familiarised themselves with the Miedema SB 451 receiver bin, the smallest in its class. This is

the most economical and productive machine for receiving, pre-cleaning and size grading potatoes and onions. The advantage of the Miedema receiver bins over rival machines is the absence of hydraulic motors and resistance to voltage fluctuations. The AVR Rafale haulm shredder with a receiving three point mount has a number of innovative advantages. One of them is on-the-rotor beater

outlay, which completely follows the ridge shape, improving ventilation and enhancing the haulm cutting efficiency. The silver medal

in view of the prevailing drought in many parts of Russia, the farmers took interest in irrigation systems. AgroCentre offered the Valley systems, its solution to this problem. At the company stand, the farmers saw part of the sprinkler installation and familiarised themselves with a newly developed product, a unique control panel that monitors all operations of the installation.

The AgroCentre specialists briefed farmers on the NivaControl precise tilling system. "The system makes it possible to use farming machines to the full extent of their capabilities, cutting expenses on labour, fuel, seeds and fertilisers. This reduces the production cost and improves product quality", says Maxim Gorelko, AgroCentre-Zakharovo precise tilling expert.



of the exhibition went to the Trioliet Solomix 2 24ZK mixing fodder distributor. The machine is designed for large dairy farms. It can accept 10 tonnes of fodder at a time and feed up to 1,200 milch cows.

"One of its advantages is versatility. NivaControl helps to learn the precise field area and to control crop yield, the seeding rate and the fertiliser introduction intensity".

By Anna BORDUNOVA

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