

It's got to be practical if it's going to find a home on my farm. It's got to be useful too. Here's a look at 2008 innovations that just might make the grade for me. Besides, I think they're cool, which I admit helps too.

Aulari precision pneumatic distributor

When I first saw it I couldn't figure out what it was. What is a precision pneumatic distributor? It's the Aulari. Upon inspection, it was fascinating. It was a little bit of everything a cash crop farmer needs — a planter, sprayer, fertilizer spreader and side dresser — and the Quebec company offers a variety of choices for cash crop, vegetable and turf producers.

The Aulari model ALR 2304AM is an example of what an Aulari can do. It can be equipped with eight to 16 planting rows with either granular or liquid fertilizer. If you want to go to 12, nine or six rows you can quickly change that from the comfort of your cab. It has electronic scales plus a 200-bushel capacity stainless steel hopper and can be equipped with single or dual tires.

Do you want to no-till or conventional-till your cereals? The Aulari can accommodate that as well with a flexible toolbar. In addition, Ausherman Vantage II single disc coulters can be added with Aulari's Disc Sealer for side dressing fertilizer. In many ways for the cash cropper, the Aulari maximizes management flexibility. You are only limited by your imagination.

www.aulari.com



Salford 9800 Primary Tillage

The Salford 9800 is designed to disturb 100 per cent of the topsoil layer for maximum aeration. The goal is to ensure uniformity for planting equipment and for the root system of the following crop. Salford says that yield threats such as insects and disease are minimized by this 100 per cent soil disturbance. By disrupting pest habitat, Salford maintains it can minimize the pressure of those pests on the following crop. The company also says 100 per cent topsoil disturbance takes care of the deep-rooted perennials along with emerged annuals, but just as importantly, the finishing systems

available for the 9000 series tools are seed bed creators which

germinate a much higher percentage of weeds than traditional chisel plows, moldboard plows or disc style tools.

In regions and situations where erosion is a factor or where producers are using a multiple crop rotation, the company says these tools can be configured to move only as much soil as is necessary in any given production environment. They truly are designer tools with multiple functions ranging from chisel plowing to deep ripping. The shank mounts can be equipped with chisel points, chisel ripper tools, parabolic shanks, in-line ripper shanks or combinations of these systems. According to Salford's Jim Boak, the 9000 series is designed to leave soil surfaces level enough for one-pass secondary tillage in the spring, reducing labour, capital and energy requirements. 9800 series starts at 12-ft. working width with models available up to 21 ft. 6 inches working width. Wing fold is standard starting with the 9811 on 20-inch shank spacing with a transport width of approximately 12 ft. 6 inches.

www.salfordmachine.com



John Deere 4830 Field Sprayer

I never get tired of looking at these mammoth field sprayers, which are changing the way we farm. At the recent Canada Outdoor Farm Show at Woodstock, Ont., John Deere displayed its 4830, which according to John Deere provides the solution that growers and professional applicators need for a machine with 1,000 U.S. gallons of solution capacity and 100 feet of boom width.

The JD 4830 has all the performance-enhancing features which growers and applicators have come to expect. One such option is the high-flow plumbing system for applying at rates higher than 50 gallons per acre. According to John Deere, this high-flow system features dual flow metres, stainless steel plumbing and high-flow five-position nozzle bodies.

www.deere.com



Gregoire-Besson VFF Heavy Duty Offset Disc Harrows

Gregoire-Besson says its VFF Heavy Duty offset disc harrows for tractors from 100 hp to 300 hp offer a first-class soil and crop residue management tool. On viewing the VFF, I was struck by the large aggressive-looking heavy discs. According to Gregoire-Besson, the patented flail discs are treated with boron and manganese to reduce wear and increase durability. These discs have an excellent cutting effect for crop residue and a soil mixing effect for manure incorporation.

The overriding impression I got from looking at the VFF disc harrow was its heft. It looks aggressive all over. The VFF discs are held in place with four bolts to prevent rotation on the shaft. According to Gregoire-Besson, the disc shape reduces the risk of creating a hardpan and reduces power requirements compared to more conventional offset disc harrows.

www.gregoire-besson.com

Mandako Land Rollers

Increasingly on today's farms we're seeing new applications for older technologies with bells and whistles not thought of in yesteryear. Land rollers have always been seen in the countryside, but Mandako Land Rollers of Plum Coulee, Man. is offering a multitude of options for farmers wanting to roll their fields.

Mandako Land Rollers working widths range from 12 to 50 feet. These land rollers feature a heavy $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch drum wall thickness with a 42-inch diameter. The three-inch drum shaft and bearing shaft extend two feet into the drum. The wider rollers fold up to 12.5 feet for easy road transportation. With the wheels folded up, there is a "rubberized field bumper" to eliminate what Mandako calls "field-related chatter." If you choose, you can even add water in situations where you want more weight. The land rollers are heavy and can be used for pushing rocks down into the ground, saving expensive flex heads on combines. This is especially important in fields of pulses and soybeans. As well, rolling encourages more uniform emergence of crop and weeds. Spray the fields once and it's often done.

www.mandakoagri.com

