

High demand for agricultural implements

Business is good for European manufacturers of machinery for soil cultivation, seeding, fertilisation and crop protection, according to their membership organisation.

"After two very difficult years, the market now seems to be significantly heading towards growth," said Gerd Wiesendorfer, coordinator of the three product groups within the European industry association for agricultural machinery CEMA.

According to first estimates, in

2010 the market volume for soil cultivation machinery, seed drills, fertilisers and crop protection machines within the European Union amounted to approximately €2.3 billion (previous year: €2.4 bn).

INCREASED EXPECTATION

For 2011, an increase of about 15% is expected. France and Germany are the highest-volume markets, but the Eastern European markets are expected to play a major role again this year.

Precision farming group set up by AEA

The Agricultural Engineers Association has formed an AEA Precision Farming Forum, bringing together companies active in this innovative area of farming that will provide one of the key inputs to increasing our crop yields significantly by 2050.

The forum is aimed not only at giving members an opportunity to discuss the subject, but to showcase their ideas and promote the sector to government at UK and

EU level as well as to farmers and potential users.

FUNDING AGENDA

It also aims to assist in getting sensors and information and communications technology onto the EU Research Framework Programme (FP8) funding agenda and other funding opportunities.

Membership is free but members of the forum will be encouraged to join the AEA.

Power harrow range upgraded

Northampton-based Lynx Engineering, UK distributor for the professional contractor range of Alpego power harrows, has announced product upgrades for the 2011 season.

A new fixed RK power harrow range improves and replaces the popular RG range. Alpego has re-engineered the base gear trough to be able to transmit higher hp to meet expanding sales throughout the world and ever increasing tractor horsepower.

Gears within the trough unit are now manufactured of higher quality thermally treated steel, 20% harder than previous gears. The 3.0m, 3.5m and 4.0m fixed frame power harrows feature conical top and bottom rotor bearings and shock absorbing rotor blades. A parallelogram rear linkage supports the rear rotor and levelling bar, allowing even soil distribution and depth control.

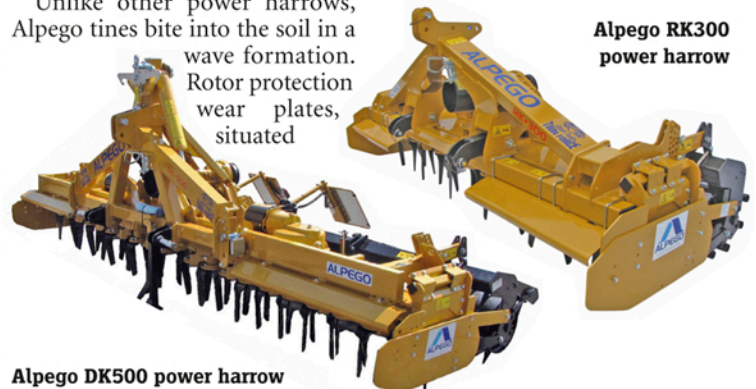
Unlike other power harrows, Alpego tines bite into the soil in a wave formation. Rotor protection wear plates, situated

between each pair of rotors, are now easily replaceable.

Incorporating the improved gear Trough advantages of the Alpego RK power harrow, a new folding DK Alpego range covering half metre widths from 4.0m to 6.0m is now available.

Transmission of power to both troughs is through technically advanced central and lateral gear-boxes, with these high output machines, incorporating advanced cooling and gear lubrication systems. Alpego's design engineers are renowned for their design and production of ultra efficient power transfer systems, enabling these heavy duty machines to line up with Europe's largest 500hp tractors.

To accommodate these larger tractor linkages, and additional subsoiler frames, the main central gearbox has been moved back and lowered.



Alpego RK300 power harrow

Alpego DK500 power harrow