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Mid-range focus for new models

Machinery LAMMA preview

A number of manufacturers launched new tractors at last month's Agritechnica in Hannover. *CPM* highlights those most likely to be the focus of attention at LAMMA on 17 and 18 Jan.

By David Jones

Last month's Agritechnica event performed its usual showcasing role for the world's farm machinery manufacturers and, as is the organisers' intention, underlined the innovative approach most of them are now pursuing.

For many of the companies involved it's 'next stop Peterborough,' as the focus of attention shifts to what will be the last LAMMA Show to be staged at the East of England showground before the move to Birmingham's NEC venue in 2019.

Case IH

Case gets to introduce this category this year, having been awarded the 'Machine of the Year' title in Hannover's mid-class tractor category for its Maxxum ActiveDrive 8 tractor. This model provides

a total of 24 speeds in both forward and reverse, in three ranges, with a creeper version available for special applications.

Range One provides speeds of up to 10.2km/h for heavier draught work — and in ultra-low speed vegetable crop work — while the principal mid range covers close to 90% of all field, grassland and loader operations. Range Three's skip-shift function is designed for road travel.

The Maxxum will be seen alongside the newly extended Puma X range which now includes three entry-level models — the 140, 150 and 165X — with six-step, semi-powershift transmissions. The main spec changes are in the cab, which features a basic operator interface with digital display, basic seat, low-profile roof and opening left and right doors, and are aimed at livestock farmers in particular.

The Case IH stand will also feature one of the three new Quadtrac CVX tracked tractor models. These have CVXDrive transmissions — previously not available in an articulated tracked tractor — that provide stepless progress from 0-40km/h and can be set to operate at a specific forward or engine speed.

Jan's event will also provide the UK launch pad for three new, smaller all-round tractors, in the shape of the Farmall A range.

New Holland

A prominent feature of the NH presence at LAMMA will be a T6 Dynamic Command model, fresh from its launch in Germany last month. Described as all-round, multi-purpose tractors, the T6, 145, 155, 165 and 175 versions are the first to have a new 8-step, semi powershift transmission. NH anticipates all-round demand for these models from the arable, livestock, dairy and contracting sectors.

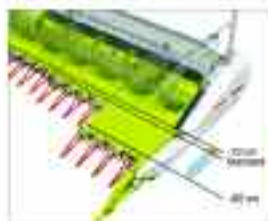
"Automation kept simple" is the phrase NH has applied to these models, as they aim to reduce operator input while boosting productivity. Spanning the 145-175 (max) horsepower range, they're likely to appeal ▶



The Case IH stand will feature one of the three new Quadtrac CVX tracked tractor models.



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Sebastian Bywater, August 2017.

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Tractors in the T7 180-240hp class have a new front axle and steering control for precise operation at speed.

► to users looking for entry-level technology at one end of the range (the T6 16x16 Electro command with 4-step powershift) to those wanting a multi-purpose workhorse for cultivations and haulage (the T6 24x24 Dynamic Command).

Tractors in the T7 180-240hp class have also undergone changes. They have a new front axle and steering control for precise operation at speed and upgraded front axle suspension, featuring 'Skyhook' logic for greater stability and operator comfort. The new CustomSteer variable

ratio steering specification eases any manoeuvre and higher payloads can now be handled following a capacity upgrade. In the cab, many of the instruments have enhanced clarity.

At the top end of the NH tractor offering, T8 models have seen a number of upgrades for 2018, including ECOBlue Selective Catalytic Reduction technology, improvements to the ride quality and easier servicing and maintenance.

Fendt

The appearance of Fendt's all-new MT 943 top of the range 431hp tracked tractor will allow the company to explain to visitors the four elements of the machine's exhaustively researched full suspension system. These comprise: the air-sprung operator's seat, two-point cab suspension, ConstantGrip track/ground contact and the SmartRide mainbeam connection.

In addition to the tracked tractor, the new RoGator 655 self-propelled sprayer will be available for perusal, along with the range-topping 1050 wheeled tractor and accompanied by the 828, 700, 516, and 300 models. The presence of a Series L combine harvester will complete the Fendt show inventory.

Claas

The Claas spotlight at the East of England showground could well be trained on the new five-model Axion 900 Series. Occupying the high-end is the 445hp 960 model, a prime example of the Claas low-speed concept — maximum output, maximum torque and maximum top speed at much lower engine speeds, calculated to demand significantly lower engine speeds.

These machines have Cmatic transmissions, with the CIS+ version equipped with a multi-function armrest and Drivestick, colour display in the A-pillar, electronic spool valves and headland, field



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and implement management. The CEBIS version has a three-finger mode of operation, with 12in display and touch screen.

Among the other Claas stablemates present will be the new Arion 660, which, with 175hp, tops the seven-model 600 Series. With fully powershifted Hexashift transmission, cruise control and Smart Stop, the 660 is built to the half-frame concept, enabling extreme loads to be handled without compromising flexibility.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to view the newly launched Scorpion telehandler series, developed in conjunction with Leibherr. Two models — the 1511 and the 1812 — will be on show, featuring increased lift capacity, new advanced driver-assistance systems, greater comfort for the operator and improved safety and reliability.

The seven models in the Scorpion range provide lifting capacity from 3.5-5.6t, and lift heights between 6.13m and 7.03m. The cabs have been re-designed, offering 360° visibility, and with all important switches and controls intuitively located and simple to operate.

Competing for attention will be what Claas describes as the first wheeled loader series for all agricultural applications



MF 5709S – the new 95hp model brings higher specification to a compact tractor.

— the Torion. Again, with seven models offered, these machines have an operating range of between 5.2t and 19.5t, with a fully articulated tipping load in the range 3.45t and 12.4t.

Massey Ferguson

Few manufacturers had as many new machines to unveil at Agritechnica as MF, the pick of which will be seen for the first time in the UK at LAMMA. A new 'S' Series specification has been applied to the company's 8700, 7700, 6700 and 5700

tractors with the aim of delivering improved comfort, safety, and efficiency, with the option on all of the new Fieldstar 5 touch-screen terminal.

A new model has been added at the lower end of the MF 5700 S range — the 95hp 5709 S — bringing higher specification levels to a compact tractor. MF explains that this model is intended for more intensive farming operations, where its advanced features should improve overall performance while making it easier to operate. ►

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Fendt 900 Series tracked machines are the first to have a fully suspended cab.

► The MF 5709 S can be specified with either a Dyna-4 or Dyna-6 transmission, with brake-to-neutral, and the additional option of AutoDrive. The multi-function joystick, choice of hydraulic system and

sloping bonnet together make it an ideal choice as a loader tractor, the company suggests.

Across all the new S-spec ranges, the option of a Fieldstar 5 touch-screen

ISOBUS terminal is available. Described as being as easy to use as current smartphones, the system builds into a complete precision farming package. Potential users can specify which satellite receiver is best for their particular location.

In addition, MF 8700 S models are to be boosted by the introduction of Active Mechanical Cab Suspension, a feature already available on the 6700 S and 7700 S ranges and designed to provide greater operator comfort levels in challenging driving conditions.

And, completing MF's line-up — in the telehandler sector — is a new compact machine, the MF TH.7030, with a lift capacity of 3.0t to a height of 7.0m. The two-position cab and manoeuvrability make it particularly suitable for dealing with heavy loads in confined spaces.

Deutz-Fahr

'Harder than your hardest job' is the headline used by Deutz-Fahr in promoting the new 9340 TTV Warrior range topper. Billed as the most powerful Warrior model produced to date, its 336hp power unit reacts instantly on ignition with an injection pressure of 2000 bar providing 90% of torque at 1000 revs/min. Maximum torque remains constant from 1200-1600 revs/min.

The 7250 model develops 246hp from a newly designed engine — newly designed, that is, in terms of its environmental impact and cost-effectiveness. The power unit is also claimed to be more responsive and with higher torque at lower revs. Along the same theme, fuel consumption has been reduced by 5% compared with the model it replaces.

Also on show at the LAMMA event will be the 6 Series (6120-6140) Powershift, with models in the 126-143hp range, together with a C9306 combine harvester.

Valtra

Having launched its new 'A' Series earlier this year at SIMA, Valtra is hoping to sustain public interest with its innovative SmartGlass windscreen. Displayed on the laminated glass windscreen itself, and relating to the task in progress, operators will have a clear view of readings for engine speed, temperature of engine/hydraulics, front loader position, implement position, fuel level — and incoming information from a ringing phone.

Functions due to be added to the system include alerts for passing vehicles on the road, people adjacent to the tractor, low obstacles in limited visibility and dangerously sloping ground.

SmartGlass is due to be available as

Ferox 500-900

The new shallow tined cultivator

The light cultivator Ferox 500-900 has vibrating tines working down to 12cm. It can be equipped with 5 or 6 rows of tines and an additional levelling CrossBoard as an option. Ferox is a high quality universal tool for medium deep tillage and seedbed preparation.

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an option on 'N' and 'T' Series tractors within the next 12 months.

Examples of the new 'A' Series will be displayed at the Peterborough event. Extending to seven models, these tractors span the 75-130hp range, with either three- or four-cylinder engines, and are available with three different frame sizes. The company explains that this choice has been created to meet differing access preferences to the newly-designed cab.

The smaller models are equipped with 3.3-litre power units, the larger ones with 4.4-litres. Both have a new common rail diesel system that combines higher power output with greater fuel economy.

With the knowledge that a relatively high proportion of new 'A' Series machines are likely to be ordered with factory-fitted front loaders, a new range of these attachments has been developed. Reconfigured loader beams and tool carrier construction are said to deliver enhanced forward visibility for the operator and greater overall machine stability.

McCormick

Having picked up a Tractor of the Year accolade at Agritechnica for its X6 440 VT-Drive model, McCormick has selected the LAMMA event as the launchpad for its new generation of X7 Series tractors. Headlining the new

features is a new transmission — the P6 — which provides the machine with greater speed and a more refined ride. The P6 is purpose-built to function with new Tier 4 Final engines that require no additional emissions hardware. A new, semi-active cab suspension and data screen upgrades have also been added.

The X7 range is now topped by a more powerful 205hp model for draft work and up to 225hp for PTO and transport operations, while the Power Plus engine boost is now featured on all models. The P6-Drive transmission delivers two additional powershift steps for added speed and more precise control.

The X7's hydraulics performance also receives a boost from the new 160 l/min system — an option that can take the place of the 123 l/min closed centre, load-sensing system that's fitted as standard on the higher-spec Premium versions.

Inside the Premiere cab, the headland management system now has more features and has been incorporated within the data Screen Management control centre — which, itself, provides more transport mode information and a remote camera feed. On Premium models, more room for the armrest console has been created by re-designing the front offside fender, allowing the seat to swivel further round for a better rear view. ▶



A special limited-edition Loadall telescopic handler will be the dominant feature of JCB's show presence.

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The 49hp 5050E is John Deere's smallest tractor to date.

► John Deere

In an age when great size, power and intelligence tend to demand our attention, it's heartening to see that the other end of the tractor market isn't being ignored. A new model — the smallest in JD's extensive range — and a series of upgrades to its lower horsepower 5M and 5E tractors are set to be introduced next month.

The debutant will be the 49hp 5050E, joining three other 5E machines up to 75hp. It offers a choice of two transmissions: the basic 12/12 PowrReverser and a new 24/12 unit capable of 40km/h. The standard 540rpm PTO operates at a rated engine speed of 1600rpm and the electronically controlled 2.9-litre engine meets Stage 111(A) emissions regulations.

Despite its diminutive size, cab comfort on the 5050E hasn't been overlooked, with the option available of a new air suspended seat and right-hand control console. A digital instrument panel provides enhanced monitoring of the tractor's principal functions.

Further up the size scale, JD will be bringing examples of the award-winning 6250R and 8400R tractors, along with the latest FarmSight precision farming technology.

JCB

A special limited-edition Loadall telescopic handler will be the dominant feature of the company's show presence, built to mark 40 years since the machine's initial launch. The 541-70 Agri Pro model will be easily recognised for its yellow bordered black engine cover and chassis.

Similar graphics will also be applied to a special version of the company's new Loadall 560-80 Agri Pro model, launched last month. Both machines will sport normally optional features, such as bright LED road lights.

The new model becomes the highest capacity machine in the Loadall range, with a 6000kg lift capacity. Powering the machine is a new Stage 111B/Tier 4i Eco MAX engine, delivering high power at low revs and using up to 10% less fuel than the model it replaces. Also introduced is a seat safety switch that disables forward/reverse if the operator isn't occupying the seat. A new hydraulic regeneration system provides faster cycle times.

JCB reports that the daily output of telehandler models at its Staffs plant is currently at its highest ever level, with the number of machines built this year expected to increase by 25% over the figure for 2016 — that's one Loadall coming off the Rokester production line every six minutes. ■



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