



WEIDEMANN:

Work emission-free in the barn with the eHoftrac[®]

Weidemann is presenting the eHoftrac[®] prototype at Agritechnica – the battery-operated charger works very quietly and is therefore gentle on the operators, animals and neighbours.

With the eHoftrac[®], Weidemann is presenting the prototype of the first fully-electric Hoftrac[®] at Agritechnica 2013. The machine was developed based on a classic Weidemann Hoftrac[®] type 1160. This means that the eHoftrac[®], like all other loaders in this class, can also work with all attachments from the Weidemann product range. The same stability and tipping load as the 1160 standard machine can be achieved thanks to the smart placement of the 400 kg battery. Depending on the application profile, one charge of the replaceable lead battery with 48 volts of battery voltage and 240 Ah energy content suffices for two to four working hours. The charging time is specified with six to eight hours.

The operating philosophy of the machine is also unchanged compared to the series machines. The control takes place as usual via an accelerator pedal and a joystick. The electrical engineering allows for an extremely dynamic and powerful start-up situation. In sum, the designers anticipate a lower energy consumption of around 48 percent and therefore also reduced operating costs. These should be reduced even further due to the elimination of the cooling water cycle and hydraulic circuit for the drive system, the elimination of motor oil changes as well as the lower proportion of components prone to wear.

With the new drive concept, the Hoftrac[®], wheel loader and telescopic loader specialist wants to offer farmers and horse farms an alternative to avoid exhaust fumes as well as noise emissions in the barn. "The battery drive completely dispels the exhaust problem from the barn and reduces the noise exposure for the operator, animals and, in close spatial locations, also largely for the neighbours. From our perspective, this is a real step forward and an interesting alternative to the diesel drive for many operations – especially since many agricultural operations have their own power generation with a PV (photovoltaic) system," said Weidemann managing director Bernd Apfelbeck as he explained the development of the prototype during its presentation at the trade fair. Apfelbeck sees other interesting fields of application for uses in warehouses with sensitive products, such as vegetables, fruit and other food, as well as for interior applications in industry.