



Each container holds 15 to 20 tons of haylage, or two dumps from the Richardson side-dump wagon that Atherton and Morrell use.

## Roll-off Garbage Containers Make Economical Forage Haulers

By Mick Lane

When Russ Atherton and Tom Morrell went out shopping for a truck to haul haylage from distant fields back to the silos on their Lee, New Hampshire, dairy farm, they found it was going to cost them \$35,000 to get what they wanted. And they felt they would need two trucks to keep up with the chopper.

After giving the matter some thought, they bought a truck, but not one for hauling haylage. They bought a used truck equipped to handle those big roll-off refuse containers you see at construction sites. That cost \$25,000.

Then they bought a couple of 50-yard containers. "Those sell for just under \$4,000 each, brand new," Atherton says.

They chop haylage with a pull-type New Holland 900 chopper and catch it in a Richardson side-dump wagon. Then they dump into a container, which sits alongside



Once on the truck, containers can be hauled back to the farm at highway speeds, the field.

The refuse containers hold 15 to 20 tons of haylage each or 2 dumps from the Richardson wagon.

"It takes only about 2 minutes to drop an empty container and load the full one onto the truck," Atherton says. "I figure one driver should be able to keep up with the chopper most of the time."

The men thought about building a trailer that would hold the containers to pull behind the chopper, so they could chop directly into it, but decided against it. They like the idea of filling the big containers at the edge of the field where it's easier to pick them up with the truck.

Atherton says they also purchased a smaller 25-yard roll-off container for hauling manure to distant fields.

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Davis never liked the location of the muffler and air cleaner on his Deere 8430 so he moved them off to the side, in line with the front right post of cab.

## He Rerouted Muffler, Air Cleaner On Deere 8430 4-WD Tractor

"The muffler and air cleaner stack were always in the way on my Deere 8430, forcing me to look around them all day," says Robert Davis, Savannah, N.Y. "I modernized it by relocating both the muffler and air cleaner to the right hand fender like on the newer series Deere tractors."

The muffler and air cleaner now line up with the right hand cab post and are hardly visible from inside the cab. The muffler now mounts on a 90 degree exhaust elbow which he bought new from Deere. The elbow was designed for the company's 60 series tractors. Davis bolted the elbow to a steel plate which he bolted to the fender, adding lower and upper reinforcement straps for support against vibration. The air cleaner mounts on a tube off a Mack semi truck. Heavy-duty aluminized elbows were used to make the sharp turns necessary to move it to the side.

"Once we figured out how to put everything together, it was a relatively simple job," says Davis. "I paid \$220 for the 90 degree



Muffler now mounts on a 90° exhaust elbow which Davis bought new from Deere.

elbow and a little over \$100 for the aluminized elbows at a local NAPA store. I also spent about \$80 on two rolls of header pipe insulation and \$25 for the air cleaner tube. My total cost was about \$450."

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## He Built His Own Self-Propelled Rock Picker

A Minnesota farmer, unhappy with the commercial rock picker he was using, came up with his own self-propelled rock picker that he says works better than anything on the market.

Wayne Juhl, of Greenbush, used the front axle from a 2-ton truck as the main component for the 3-wheeled rig, which features a single big 13 by 26-in. drive wheel (off a combine) on back and two smaller steering wheels up front. The rock picking bucket is positioned between the front wheels and tilts back to unload rocks into a steel "tank" that tips hydraulically to the side.

The machine is powered by a 4-cyl., 50 hp Isuzu diesel engine and has a hydrostatic transmission and power steering.

"It's a wonderful machine. I've picked tons of rocks with it with very few problems," says Juhl. "It's not as heavy as most commercial models so it doesn't leave as many tracks in soft ground as a tractor and pull-type picker do. I can use it in the spring both before and after I plant my crops with minimum tracking."

Juhl says he previously built a 4-wheeled self-propelled rock picker back in the 1970's. That model steered from the back wheels. He sold some models to area farmers. "Quite a few neighbors and friends came by with their



Juhl's rock picker is powered by a 50 hp. Isuzu diesel engine and has a hydrostatic transmission and power steering. The 3-wheeled rig has a single rear drive wheel and two smaller steering wheels up front.

cameras and tape measures and built their own. Many of them are still being used today. However, I think my 3-wheeled picker is a much better machine."

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