

## Scaled-Down New Holland Baler Makes “Mini Bales”

A Pennsylvania company is doing a booming business scaling down New Holland small square balers to make decorative 16 to 24-in. long bales that weigh just 6 to 8 lbs.

“They look like the real thing. There’s a market for them for decorating, landscaping, and other uses,” says Sam Esch, Strasburg, Penn.

His company rebuilds used New Holland 310 or 273 small square balers that are about 20 years old. They scale down the pickup and knoter and replace the original bale chamber with a smaller one. They also cut down the shielding around the modified parts so everything looks proportional.

“Rebuilding a baler this way is much less expensive than trying to build a new mini baler from scratch,” says Esch. “Another advantage is that parts and service for the baler

are available through New Holland dealers.

You can average 10 to 15 bales per minute.

“Bales made by the original baler measure 14 by 18 inches. The mini bales look just like the original ones except they’re 8 by 11 in. They sell for up to \$2.50 apiece. Pet stores often sell the bales in bags, which the customer takes home and uses as bedding for their pets. Some people are even floating small barley bales in ponds - inside small cages - to get rid of algae.”

Esch says you can use the baler normally in the field or set it up as a stationary unit and use an electric motor to power it. “Some people with big round balers use the baler this way. They set the round bales off to the side of the field to save time. Later, they unravel the bales on a conveyor and feed them into the mini baler.”



Scaled-down New Holland small square baler makes decorative 16 to 24-in. long bales that weigh just 6 to 8 lbs. Bale at right is a normal sized bale.

The mini baler sells for \$4,950.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ESCH

Hay Equipment, 1324 Village Rd., Strasburg, Penn. 17579 (ph 717 687-0321).

## 3-Pt. High-Lift Bale Spear

“My 3-pt. round bale lift has enough reach to stack bales three high on the ground or two high on a wagon, and can dump bales over a fence or into a feeder,” says Richard Hicks, Stanton, Mich.

According to Hicks, the unit lifts bales much higher than a conventional 3-pt. bale spear and keeps them level. It’s fitted with a 1 1/2 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder that leverages the spear up higher as the 3-pt. is raised. Maximum lift height is about 9 ft. Hicks can lift 4 by 4-ft. bales three high on the ground and 4 by 5-ft. bales two high. The boom that the spear bolts onto keeps the bale perfectly level all the way to its stacking position.

“I use it on my Deere 4010 tractor and couldn’t be happier with it,” says Hicks. “I got the idea when I priced a new front-end loader at \$3,000. My 3-pt. bale lift is easier to mount than a loader, and it keeps the traction and weight on the rear wheels so the front wheels don’t have to plow through mud and snow. I also have a better view of the bale as I spear it than I would with a loader. It’s built strong - I’ve used it to lift 1,000-lb. bales.”

Hicks says he’s willing to build units for \$350, excluding the cylinder.



Boom holds bale perfectly level all the way to its stacking position.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Hicks, 5500 Hillis Rd. N.E., Stanton, Mich. 48888 (ph 989 762-5360).



“My home-built, 3-pt. round bale spear lifts bales much higher than a conventional 3-pt. bale spear and can dump bales over a fence or into a feeder,” says Richard Hicks.

## His Big Bale Feeder Saves Tons of Hay

Gene Himelick, Economy, Indiana, was tired of seeing wasted hay on the ground around his cattle feeders. He decided he could build something better.

He started with a frame made from 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe. The feeder’s 6 ft. wide and 21 ft. long, with a V in the center to hold three 60-in. bales (or four smaller round bales) above a wooden bunk. To make the center V-shaped rack, Himelick ran a length of 4 by 4-in. angle iron from end to end in the center and then put pipe braces from the top outside of the frame to the angle iron. “That made an upside down 90-degree angle with the legs set at 45 degrees from horizontal,” he explains.

He made a frame for the bunk by running lengths of 2 by 2 angle iron along the sides and ends of his pipe frame at a height of 24 in. He made the bunk floor and sides of treated 2 by 6 lumber, giving it 5-in. high sides to hold in the silage, grain or hay. Where the bunk floor boards meet the angle iron at the bottom center of the bale holder, he cut the board ends at 45-degree angles.

He set the entire bunk on runners made of 1/4-in.-wall, 2-in. sq. steel tubing so he can move it if he needs or wants to.

“The idea is that the cattle eat hay off the bottoms of the bales, not the sides. Metal



Feeder is 6 ft. wide and 21 ft. long, with a V in the center to hold three 60-in. bales above a wooden bunk.

shields help block the sides of the baler. I’ve been using it for three years now, and the hay that ‘dribbles’ from the bales stays in the 24-in. high bunk to be eaten later,” he says. He can also use the bunk to feed grain or silage.

“It cost \$1,395 to build,” he adds. “Based on feeding 25 head of cattle, I figure it will pay for itself in hay saved after five years of use.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Himelick, 10986 Taylor Rd., Economy, Ind. 47339 (ph 765 886-5661; fax 765 886-5259; email: glhimelick@aol.com).



New 3-pt. mounted fabric layer is equipped with a single large shank with a roll of fabric on a horizontal shaft above it.

## “Fabric Layer” Fights Erosion In Waterways

“It’s a great way to reduce erosion when forming new grass waterways,” says Chris McCormick about his company’s new fabric layer that buries a special woven fabric in erodible soils.

The 3-pt. mounted machine is equipped with a single large shank with a roll of fabric on a horizontal shaft above it. As the point digs down, the fabric is unrolled in the slot and buried about 18 in. deep with 18 in. left above ground.

The fabric barriers are put in about every 30 to 75 ft., depending on the grade. They hold the soil until grass has time to take root.

“It’s built heavier than any other machine

on the market and is very user friendly,” says McCormick. “During testing we used the machine to install more than 8,000 ft. of fabric. When we built this unit we listened to what farmers wanted.”

Options include a spring-loaded couler, and a wheel kit that allows you to pull the unit behind your pickup for road transport.

Sells for \$2,850.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McCormick Equipment, 185 Hwy. 92, Pleasantville, Iowa 50225 (ph 515 848-3855 or 515 669-3427; email: mccormick01@msn.com; website: www.mccormickequipment.com).