

Bus Hay Hauler II: Built For Round Bales

David Anderson's self-propelled square bale hauler was featured in FARM SHOW a couple of years ago (Vol. 31, No. 5). He recently built a second bale hauler for round bales.

Like his first machine, Anderson started with a school bus - a 1993 International 18-passenger handicapped bus. He cut off the back of the bus shell, keeping the frame intact. He hired L&M Manufacturing in Colby, Kan., to build the bale-hauling frame out of new sq. tubing and sheet metal. Fifteen hydraulic cylinders run off a separate 28 hp Kubota engine to clamp, lift and move bales up over the top of the cab and onto the rear bale frame. The engine uses the same electrical system, battery and fuel tank as the bus. Everything is controlled inside the cab.

"A lot of people were skeptical," Anderson says. "But they were amazed how well it works and how fast it is."

He drives up to the bale and squeezes it with the clamps without damaging netted or wrapped bales. He doesn't have to approach them perfectly square, the arms self-center the bale and set it in the table over the cab. As more bales are added, he operates hydraulic cylinders to angle the table to slide bales into the trough over the bed. Anderson can haul as many as 8 or 9 round bales at a time, depending on their size.

The retired physical education teacher uses buses that are newly retired, because he knows they have been well maintained and haven't sat idle.

"You don't have to use a bus, but you need a diesel engine, air brakes, automatic transmission, 12,000-lb. front axle and a long enough wheel base to safely carry the bales," he says.

"I'll be 70 in January and would love to work with someone who would like to make these," Anderson says. He already has a utility patent on the bale haulers.

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"Crittergetter" Pumps Exhaust Underground

The idea of using engine exhaust to kill gophers and other underground pests is as old as the internal combustion engine. But if you've ever tried to hook a garden hose up to a tail pipe, you know it's not easy.

That's why Chris Kilmen came up with the "Crittergetter", a kit that makes it easy to funnel exhaust into underground tunnels. It consists of a 9-in. long rigid plastic adapter that clamps onto the exhaust pipe; 50 ft. of clear plastic tubing; an adapter that fits onto the far end of the tubing, and a 1 1/2-in. dia., 8-in. long pvc tube that attaches to the end and is used to get gas into tunnels.

The holes don't need to be sealed off because the gas is heavier than air and settles down into the tunnels.

"It's simple to use and safe for the operator, since there's no poison bait or explosions involved," says inventor Chris Klimen. "Carbon monoxide is both convenient and inexpensive because it comes from a vehicle's exhaust. It reaches the burrow's smallest hiding places.

"It works better than using an adapter that hooks up to a garden hose because the tubing is much bigger than a garden hose and can handle far more volume."

Two homeowner models are available and come with a 50-ft. long lightweight plastic hose, with additional 50-ft. hose extensions available. They fit exhaust pipes up to 3 and 4 in. in dia. and sell for \$29.99 and \$34.99 plus S&H, respectively. A heavier-duty model called the "Original Crittergetter" uses an industrial grade, high temperature hose that's available in lengths from 25 to 150 ft. It fits exhaust pipes from 2 1/2 to 4 in. dia. and starts at \$31.70 plus S&H.

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The "Crittergetter" kit uses engine exhaust to kill gophers and other underground pests.



Rigid plastic adapter clamps onto vehicle's exhaust pipe.



An 8-in. long pvc tube is used to get gas into tunnels. Reader Inquiry No. 68

Convert Cat Engines From Pony Motor To Electric Start

Bryan Parker sells kits that convert most Caterpillar engines equipped with a pony motor to electric start.

The cost is as little as \$895 or as much as \$1,200 depending on which options you choose with the kit. We now have kits for the RD-6 3 cylinder. We also have charging systems.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bryan Parker, 13925 County Rd 8510, Newburg, Mo. 65550 (ph 573 465-0276; E-Mail: bandc@embarqmail.com).

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