



Cat loader-mounted bale fork uses a pair of hydraulic-operated squeeze arms attached to a steel backstop. It's designed for use with 21-bale bundles of small square bales.



Sasser says the bale fork works great for stacking onto pickups, flatbeds and semi trailers.

Powered Bale Fork Squeezes, Loads 21-Bale Bundles

"My home-built, loader-mounted bale squeeze is designed with hydraulic arms that squeeze 21-bale bundles of small square bales, which makes it work great for stacking in pickups and on flatbed or semi trailers. It eliminates a lot of labor and works fast – we can load a 53-ft. trailer in only about one hour," says Loy Sasser, Mack, Colo.

Sasser used scrap iron and parts from an old land leveler and a Case disk plow to build his "powered" bale fork. It consists of a pair of squeeze arms attached to a long rectangular steel backstop, which quick-attaches to the extend-a-boom forklift on Sasser's Cat loader. A pair of hydraulic cylinders move the squeeze arms inward to grasp the bale in a tight hug.

"It's a simple, cost efficient way to move bales," says Sasser, who grows premium grass hay that he and his wife sell to local horse owners. "We use a Bale Band-It to

make the bundles (www.balebandit.com). It stacks 3 bales on edge and 7 bales deep, tying the 21-bale pack with 2 steel straps. The bundles measure 3 1/2 ft. wide by 4 1/2 ft. tall by 8 ft. long, which is about the size of a 4 by 8-ft. bale.

"The Bale Band-It sets the bundles on the ground in the field, and then I use our New Holland stack wagon to haul the squeeze to stack the bundles on it and haul them into our barn. Commercial bale squeezes sell for \$10,000 to \$11,000, which is more than I paid for the Cat loader."

Sasser says he came up with the idea because he couldn't find anyone to load bales onto pickups or semi trucks. "We had been using a bale handler that could pick up 16 bales at a time and set them on a truck, but then someone on the truck had to restack the bales by hand for transport and tie them down. I'm getting too old to do that anymore."



Bale fork quick-taches to Cat loader's extend-a-boom forklift.

He says local horse owners often drive their pickups to his ranch, where he loads the bundles onto them. "They're mostly women horse owners who love not having to touch the bales until they get home to unload. Some

bring flatbed trailers so they can pick up more than one bundle," says Sasser.

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Glenn Fisher converted an old IH 8-ft. wide, horse-drawn rake to a 3-pt. mounted "yard rake". He uses it to rake leaves and grass, as well as pruned grape vines.

Horse-Drawn Hay Rake Mounted On 3-Pt. Hitch

A Georgia farmer came up with a low-cost, 3-pt. mounted "yard rake" by converting an old IH 8-ft. wide, horse-drawn rake. A big sprocket is bolted on front of the rake and is used to adjust the rake's angle up to 45 degrees to either side.

"I use it with my Yanmar tractor on our 5-acre property. It may be a little overbuilt, but it works great and is really handy," says Glenn Fisher, of Homer. "I use it to rake leaves and grass, as well as pruned grape vines. We use the leaves as mulch in our flower beds and around our fruit trees, and the grass as bedding in our 4 dog houses during the winter. Each spring we pull the hay out of the houses and use it as mulch for seeding grass in our yard."

The rake originally came with wheels but someone had removed them. Fisher used heavy angle iron to build a 3-pt. hitch, which extends back to the rake's angle iron frame and bolts on using existing holes. He cut off part of a 2-ft. dia. sprocket to "square it up" with the frame and then bolted it on. The



Big sprocket bolted on front of rake is used to adjust rake angle up to 45 degrees to either side.

sprocket swivels on a vertical shaft with bearings, and is held in place by a short metal pin that fits between the sprocket teeth.

"The pin runs through a slotted metal bracket that I welded to the hitch. I change the rake's angle by pulling the pin out and moving the rake to whatever angle I want. Then I reinsert the pin," says Fisher.

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Post pounder sets on a trailer that can be pulled with a pickup or utility tractor, and includes a bin to hold posts.

Fence Faster With Trailer Post Pounder

A trailer-mounted post pounder from Applegate Livestock Equipment was designed for ranchers and contractors who install miles of fence posts. "The ease of operation, heavier mast and pounder head get the job done 25 to 50 percent faster than some other products on the market," says William Dilts, product manager for Applegate business.

Applegate developed and began selling the post pounder in August 2018. Set up on a trailer that can be pulled with a pickup or utility tractor, it includes a bin to hold posts. A 750-lb. hammer with adjustable height, powered by a 14 hp. Kohler engine and direct mounted hydraulic pump, can drive in posts up to 12 in. in dia. and 12 ft. long. Its low gravity and wide stance offer stability on uneven ground. The joy stick operation makes it easy to use.

"On the hitch, it will let you move 16 in. so you don't have to be real precise where you stop to get exact post placement," Dilts says.

The trailer post pounder sells for \$15,750, and there are dealers across the U.S. and



Unit's 750-lb. hammer can drive in posts up to 12 in. dia. and 12 ft. long.

Canada. Dilts noted that Applegate plans to have 3-pt. and skidsteer side mast models available soon.

A video and more information are included on the company's website.

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