



Spring-tooth tines on Hay Machine's vertical pickup lifts hay from windrow and drops it on the machine's 15-ft. long stack-forming bed.

"HAY MACHINE" COMBINES BEST OF BALING AND STACKING

"It combines the best of baling and stacking," says North Dakota rancher Ray Olin of his new, mechanized way to make top quality loose hay "the old fashioned way".

Unhappy with the quality and cost of big round bales, Ray turned to his workshop to create the revolutionary Hay Machine. "It combines the convenience of baling with the speed, quality and low cost of stacking," says Olin who, in addition to farming and ranching, owns and operates Rolin Mfg., headquartered on Main Street in New Salem in Western North Dakota. The firm specializes in minimum and no-till seedbed preparation equipment for corn planters and grain drills.

The hydraulically-driven Hay Machine features a hay pickup apron up front and a stack-forming bed (8 ft. wide, 15 ft. long and 9 ft. high) in back. Here's how it works:

You swath and crimp (or mow and crimp) hay. Then, the same or next day, when the hay is only half to two-thirds dry, you move in with the Hay Machine to pick up the windrowed hay. Moving at about 7 mph, it puts the hay into loosely-packed 2½ ton piles which are fluffy enough so air can penetrate to dry the still-moist hay. After 2 to 4 days of curing, 10 to 12 piles are bucked together into a single stack, using a large, old-fashioned buck rake or "sweep" attached to the front of a tractor loader. "These hay sweeps or forks have been around for many years and are readily available," explains Olin. "Also readily available are conventional stack movers for transporting the large stacks of loose hay to headquarters."

"Hay blown into mini stacks with Hesston-type Stakhands has to be dry before it's stacked, causing considerable leaf loss during the curing, blowing and stacking process," Olin points out. "With the new Hay Machine, you don't have to wait for hay to field dry before moving it to

put it into piles. What's more, the machine gently lifts and drops the hay to virtually eliminate the excessive leaf loss you get with conventional stacking or baling."

Olin hasn't established a firm retail price for his Hay Machine but anticipates being able to manufacture and market it for "right at \$6,000. That's about one-third the cost of a new big round baler. And, with the lower-cost Hay Machine, we're confident you'll be able to make much better quality hay in less time and with less labor."

"Because of hay quality problems, big bales are losing favor with some farmers," Olin points out. "Here in Western North Dakota, for example, most owners have switched to night baling in an effort to solve problems with leaf loss and hay quality. With the new Hay Machine, we're convinced you can put up top quality loose hay without having to work nights."

The Hay Machine's vertical pickup apron is equipped with spring-tooth tines which pick up hay in the swath or windrow, then elevate it to the top where it drops into the machine's 15-ft. long stack-forming bed. In making a stack, the operator repositions the bed's unloading apron three times, moving it about 5 ft. per time "on the go" to form each pile or stack. To unload, the operator simply lets the apron run to move the finished stack out the back, which is equipped with hinged gates that open and close automatically.

Olin, who also manufactures stack movers, has "gone south" this winter to field test his Hay Machine. He's taking orders and expects to have it rolling off the assembly line early this spring. He notes that, in addition to hay, it can also be used to harvest straw and other crop residues.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rolin Mfg., New Salem, No. Dak. 58563 (ph 701 843-7581).



Stackbed apron is used both to form the stack, by moving loose hay to the rear, and to unload.

By Harold Johnson, Editorial Director

New Way To Make Top Quality Hay

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