

"TOP SPRINGS" HELP BALER WRAP DENSE LAYER OF HAY AROUND OUTSIDE OF BALE

Add-On Springs 'Tighten Up' Older Round Balers

"Lets you pack one-third more hay into a same-size bale," says Darrell A. McNutt, inventor of add-on springs for older, and newer, round balers not equipped with increasing pressure regulators.

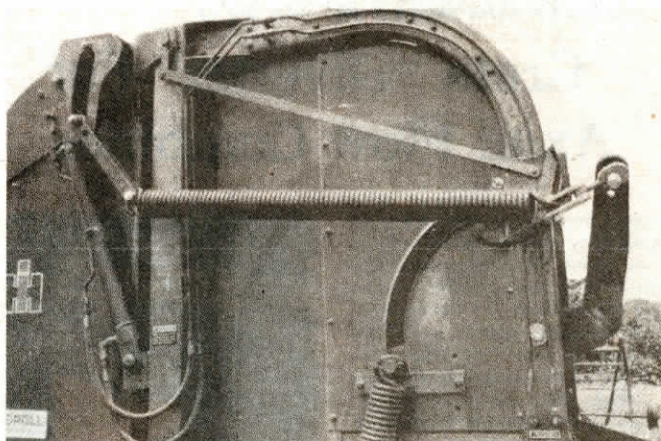
Dameco "top springs" ride loosely on the baler until the bale is 2/3 to 3/4 made. At that point the top spring arm engages the regular belt tightener arm and adds the additional pressure needed to make a firm, dense wrap that not only forces more hay into the bale but also produces a more moisture-tight outer surface. In addition, says McNutt, modified balers produce a bale that stands up straight and round all winter, exposing less hay to the ground.

The new bale spring kit fastens to a

fixed point at the front of the baler and to the "slack arms," which regulate bale density, at the rear of the baler. Kit simply bolts into place with no holes to drill and no cutting required.

"It provides even tension throughout the entire bale. We added top springs to a 605-C Vermeer baler that had been producing 855 lb. bales. Once converted it produced bales that were the same size but weighed 1,140 lbs. Because they were packed tighter they didn't breathe as much and spoilage was reduced," says McNutt.

Top springs have two settings, one for high-moisture hay and one for low moisture, which changes tension by about 25%. The adjustment is made



"Top Springs" bolt in place to provide added pressure to last 1/3 of bale.

quickly by simply removing one bolt. Top Springs kit sells for \$495 and fits any belt baler that doesn't have increasing pressure regulators. These include Vermeer balers models 605 and 504 (series C, F, G & H), all Massey Ferguson balers sold from 1974 to 1985; Deere balers from 1973 to 1983; Hesston model 5800; International

Harvester model 241; and other makes and models that can be custom-fitted.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dameco Inc., P.O. Box 278, Highway 70 East, Soper, Okla. 74759 (ph toll-free 800 654-6106 or 405 345-2286).

SOUND-ACTIVATED MECHANISM CUTS WASTE TO THE BONE

New Hog Feeder Talks To Itself

A new hog feeder that "talks to itself" may revolutionize the way you feed hogs because of the way it maintains consistent water-to-feed ratios and eliminates waste.

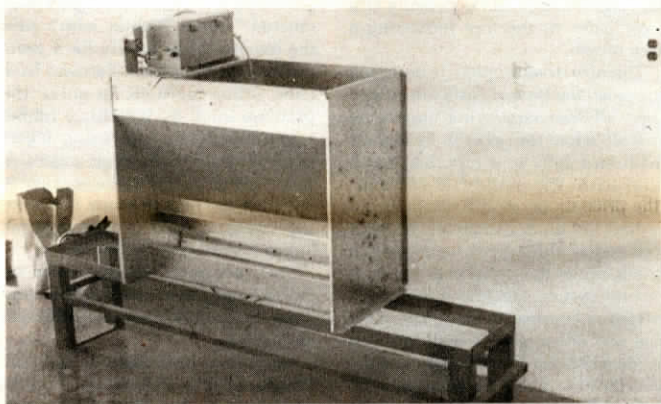
The Rapp-O-Matic feeder, invented by Gary Rapp, Greenview, Ill., looks like an ordinary stainless steel trough feeder. But there's an electronic transducer located under the trough that makes a constant, high-pitched ringing sound. When the bottom of the trough is covered with feed, no sound can be heard.

But once 95% or more of the feed has been eaten out of the trough, a second transducer at the upper end of the feeder hears the high-pitched sound. It then activates a motor inside the feeder which drops a small amount of feed into the trough and opens a water line that wets the feed.

Once the sound has again been muffled, the machine shuts off.

You can precisely regulate the amount of mixed-in water, which is added to the feed every 4 in. along the trough. You can adjust the volume of the tone to limit how much feed drops into the trough, which Rapp says virtually eliminates waste. The machine has a counter which lets the operator know approximately how much feed has been fed.

The new hog feeder, which is already on the market from ILECO in Fairfield, Iowa, has a built-in two-second delay mechanism so high hog squeals or other sounds won't activate it. The biggest advantage of the feeder is the consistent water-to-feed ratio, which a company representative says improves feed efficiency ratios by as much as half versus dry



A "transducer" in the feed pan sends a signal to sound-activated motor mounted atop feeder when hogs have finished feed.

feeding. Early test results have shown a gain ratio of 2.33 lbs. of feed per pound of gain.

Another company, Marting Mfg. Inc., Britt, Iowa, has also been licensed to manufacture the feeder but says it plans to wait at least a year before filling orders. "We built 12 units and put them all out on test. We want to be certain the electronic components stand up under corrosive conditions," Ron Riser told

FARM SHOW. ILECO in Fairfield, Iowa, says the feeder has already been through 2 years of testing with no problems. It sells a 48-in. long model for \$2,140.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ILECO, 601 South 23rd St., Fairfield, Iowa 52556 (ph 515 472-2153), or contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marting Mfg. Inc., Britt, Iowa 50423 (ph toll-free 800 247-1868 or, in Iowa, 800 392-5632).

WORKS GREAT FOR HARD TO GET AT SPOTS

Use Chain Saw To Dig Mini Trenches

In just minutes you can convert your existing chain saw to dig mini-trenches using new Mini-Trencher chains.

Designed by Bill Rose, McMinnville, Ore., the chain fits most major brand chain saws. "It's designed to make small trenches for irrigation pipe and drip irrigation

tubing," says Rose. "Other uses are for making narrow trenches to lay cable and wire. A chain saw works great for places that are difficult to get at with a conventional trencher, such as near walls, under fences, between shrubs and up steep grades."

The chain is equipped with 1 1/2-in. wide diggers that make the trench. A

narrower but taller digger tooth sits in front of each large tooth to break up the soil.

Mini Trencher chain for 14 or 16-in. bars sells for \$86.95, plus shipping. Sprocket covers, which keep dirt from flying in your face, sell for \$38.00.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rose's Mini-Trencher, P.O. Box 832, McMinnville, Ore. 97128 (ph 503 472-5003).

Digger chain fitted with 1 1/2-in. wide teeth, replaces cutting chain to dig narrow trenches as deep as your saw will reach.

