To load a bale you raise the bar straight up and stab the bale. To slice it up, you simply start the cutter chain and lower the bar onto the bale.

HAULS BALE TO FEEDER, THEN CUTS IT APART

Loader-Mounted Round Bale Cutter

You can pick up a round bale, haul it to a feeder, and then cut it apart - all in one operation - with this new loader-mounted round bale cutter invented by Ben Borgford of Arborg, Manitoba.

The hydraulic-powered bale cutter consists of a pivoting 6-ft. long bar and chain operated by a hydraulic motor, mounted above a pair of conventional bale spears. The bar is raised or lowered by a hydraulic cylinder.

To load a bale you raise the bar straight up and stab the bale (the bar can also be used as a clamp if necessary). To slice it up, you simply start the cutter chain and lower the bar onto the bale. You can cut it up in the air so the loose hay falls right into the feeder.

"It'll cut a bale in less than a minute and allows you to feed bales with minimal waste," says Borgford, who mounted the unit on a Versatile 276 Bi-Directional tractor. "It's no more trouble to cut the bale than it is to pick it up and drop it into a feeder. You can carry the bale as high as the loader will lift and even cut it into a truck box. Once the bale is cut it falls open and is loose. It could be used as a 3-pt. bale cutter for farmers who want to cut and spread bales on the ground or who want to cut bales apart and manually feed them inside a dairy barn. One limitation would be that you couldn't raise the bale as high as you can with the loader.

"It works great with fence line feeders in pastures because you can feed the bale from outside the pasturing area, reducing the possibility of injury to the animals. Another advantage is that you can use it to cut off unwanted wet or frozen hay and allow it to drop off before you feed the rest of the bale."

Bale can be sliced up in the air so that the loose hay falls right into a feeder.

Borgford has a couple of other ideas on how to feed bales using his cutter. "You could cut an 8-ft. round bale feeder in half and weld a 5-ft. length onto each side to make an oval-shaped, 13-ft. long feeder. As the compressed bale is cut it expands and will fall out sideways to fill the entire feeder. Dairy farmers may want to cut 20 bales or so into a pile outside the barn, then use a small tractor and loader-mounted grapple fork to haul the loose hay into the barn. They'd be able to see better over the loose hay than over a solid bale."

Borgford is looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joben Systems Ltd., Box 4090, Arborg, Manitoba, Canada R0C 0A0 (ph 204 376-5030).

Bale cutter consists of a pivoting 6-ft. long bar and chain operated by a hydraulic motor, mounted above two bale spears.

The 13-ft. high self-propelled tiling machine rides on 43-in. wide, 66-in. high flotation tires and weighs 50,000 lbs. It can dig 7 ft. deep.

13-FT. HIGH "BIGFOOT" EQUIPPED WITH 12-FT. DIGGING WHEEL

"Monster" Self-Propelled Tiler Goes Anywhere

"Nothing compares with it for shear size and strength. It'll keep going no matter what the conditions without breaking down or getting stuck," says Mark Schuelke, Bedford, Iowa, about his "Bigfoot" self-propelled tiling machine that's 13 ft. high, rides on 43-in. wide, 66-in. high flotation tires, and is equipped with a 12-ft. dia. digging wheel that can dig 7 ft. deep. It weighs 50,000 lbs.

Schuelke finished building the machine last summer and used it soon afterward to dig 45,000 ft. of tile. It's powered by a 330 hp Detroit 871 diesel engine and has hydrostatic ground drive. The operator sits on a hydraulically-raised and lowered platform 7 ft. off the ground on the right side of the machine. The rear-mounted digging wheel drops dirt onto a rubber conveyor which throws it off to the side.

He started with a used rubber tired Michigan 280 bulldozer. He needed a bigger engine so he bought a used Detroit 871 for $1,000 and overhauled it.

"I'm well pleased with it and wouldn't trade it for anything on the market. Some other self-propelled tilers have almost as much power as mine, but none of them are built as heavy or have as much flotation," says Schuelke, who uses the rig to do custom tiling within a 50-mile radius of his farm. "It took me 1 1/2 years to build. I built it because I had too many breakdowns with the commercial machines I was using. I spent less than $100,000 to build it. The closest comparable machine sells for about $200,000. I paid $6,000 for the dozer, $3,500 for the digging wheel, and $20,000 for the hydraulics. The machine has more than $2,000 worth of hydraulic fittings in it. The axles came off the original dozer as did the drop boxes.

"The combination of high horsepower and a big digging wheel lets me dig 30 ft. of trench per minute, compared to 12 to 15 ft. per minute for most machines. One day I dug 90 ft. per min. Speed is important because in recent years farmers have been planting earlier and harvesting later, which reduces the amount of time available to do tiling work.

"The digging wheel is off a Jetco commercial tiler and was originally designed to dig a 36-in. wide trench. I took the center cutter out and installed a 14-in. center cutter so that now it digs a 23-in. wide trench. Most of the time I dig 4 1/2 ft. deep and I can vary the speed of the digging wheel as I go."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Schuelke, 2449 Tennessee Ave., Bedford, Iowa 50833 (ph 712 523-3119).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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