



Mackey's round bale handler mounts on front of his 1992 Belarus 805 tractor. To transport and stack bales, a pair of 8-ft. long steel arms attach to 1 1/2-ft. long arms that are hinged just in front of the radiator and are raised or lowered by two cylinders.

GREAT VISIBILITY ON FRONT OF TRACTOR

“Poor Man’s” Bale Handler Transports, Stacks, Unrolls

“It does a lot more than commercial front-end loaders that sell for thousands of dollars yet I spent only about \$300 to build it,” says Otto Mackey, Okemah, Okla., about the home-built round bale handler he built to mount on front of his 1992 Belarus 805 tractor.

It consists of a pair of 1 1/2-ft. long steel lift arms that mount on front of the tractor. The arms are hinged just in front of the radiator and are raised or lowered by two 3 by 10-in. hydraulic cylinders.

To transport and stack bales, a pair of 8-ft. long steel arms attach to the lift arms. Made from 2 by 4-in. sq. tubing, the long arms are fitted with a 4-ft. bale spear. A pair of steel rods runs from the lift arms to the frame supporting the bale spear to hold it level with the ground at any height.

A homemade bale unroller and a 20-ft. rope wick can also be attached to the lift arms.

“It’ll stack 1,000-lb. bales two high with no problem,” says Mackey. “If I made the arms longer I could stack bales three high. I had been using a 3-pt. mounted bale spear but I couldn’t stack bales with it. It takes only about a half minute to attach the bale handling arms so I can use the same tractor to mow and rake my hay. A front-end loader takes about an hour to mount and makes the tractor awkward to use for other jobs. The lift arms are completely out of the way so I can leave them on the tractor all the time.

“The unroller consists of a freely rotating steel cylinder. To unroll bales I simply lower



Homemade bale unroller consists of a freely rotating steel cylinder. To unroll bales he simply lowers the unroller and then drives ahead.

the unroller and then drive ahead. If the bale is flat I raise the unroller at the same time. I also mounted a section of plywood on top of the arms to haul sacks of feed.

“I use the rope wick to control johnsongrass in peanuts and soybeans. I can adjust its height on-the-go by simply raising or lowering the lift arms. I pin the rope wick directly onto the lift arms or remove the unroller cylinder and pin the wick onto the unroller arms. I can also pin a 4-ft. wide bucket onto the lift arms to scrape manure, dirt, etc. I use a rope to dump it. The bucket is off an old loader that I used several years ago on my Ford tractor.”

The lift arms attach to the tractor with steel brackets that bolt to the side of the tractor.

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Bale handler will stack 1,000-lb. bales two high with no problem, says Mackey.



Locking side panels flip up to provide 20 cu. ft. of storage on the 6 1/2-ft. box and 27 cu. ft. on the 8-ft. box.

LEAVES BED COMPLETELY OPEN

Toolbox Built Into Side Panels Of Pickup

The side panels of pickup beds can be turned into roomy storage compartments that leave the bed completely open, says Innovative Truck Storage, Carson City, Nevada.

The conversion requires replacing the entire pickup box. Both 6 1/2 and 8-ft. beds fit all 1/2, 3/4, and 1-ton pickups at an installed cost of less than \$3,000. Locking side panels flip up to provide 20 cu. ft. of storage on the 6 1/2-ft. box and 27 cu. ft. on the 8-ft. box. The panels simply swing outward and upward with assistance from gas shock lifts.

“Customers can tailor the storage compartment to their specific needs,” says Scott

Clare. “Not only do you get ample lockable storage compartments on each side of the bed, but you don’t lose any space in the bed. We offer a variety of pull-out shelves and bins that allow you to customize the toolbox to your needs.”

Clare says the expense of the add-on box is partially offset by eliminating the need for a conventional toolbox in the box.

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“Hydrocasters” can be used to lift pull-type field cultivators, plows, air seeders, swathers, sprayers and more.

New Way To Lift Equipment

A simple new lift system for most any type of field equipment eliminates complicated lift mechanisms and bushings on conventional systems.

“Hydrocasters” are the brainchild of Surrey, N. Dak., farmer Harry Behrens, who says the system can be used on pull-type cultivators, plows, air seeders, swathers, sprayers and more.

It consists of a vertically mounted castoring implement wheel and hydraulic cylinder assembly (with a patented free-floating piston) that bolts to the frame of the implement. Size of cylinder, number of wheels and placement depends on the size of the implement, Behrens says.

For example, two Hydrocasters with a 2 1/2-in. cylinder are enough to lift a 21-ft. cultivator, while six dual wheels and 4-in. cylinders are necessary to lift a big, 70-ft. cultivator.



Vertically mounted castoring implement wheel, and hydraulic cylinder assembly, bolt to implement frame.

Lift provided ranges from 16 up to 24 in., he says.

“Hydrocasters” start at \$50 to \$60.

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