



“Bale Buddy” pushes bale off one side of truck so hay flakes onto the ground. You can feed out a couple flakes at a time or feed it all out in one place.

Square Bale Feeder Mounts On Pickup

Todd Whatley and John Sparks work on a 10,000 acre cattle ranch located in the Arbuckle Mountain region of Oklahoma. They found themselves feeding more and more big square bales to cattle but didn't have what they felt was a good way to do it.

“People feed big square bales the same way they used to feed out small square bales. They start and stop their pickups, constantly getting in and out to feed out by hand. Or they have one person driving and another rides on back of the pickup flaking off the hay,” says Todd Whatley.

“I heard one story about a man who put his pickup in low gear and walked alongside, flaking hay off. One day, the man stepped into an armadillo hole and by the time he recovered, the pickup had run into a ravine.

“Other farmers are chopping up the bales in a grinder or shredder and then taking the hay to the field.”

Whatley and Sparks decided to come up with a new solution. The “Bale Buddy” mounts on any 8-ft. pickup flatbed or you can mount it on a trailer.

“When we designed it we tried to solve all the problems involved with the feeding of big square bales. It holds big square bales up to 20 by 48-in. and up to 8 ft. in length. Safety arms mount on front and rear of the bale. You take all the strings off the bale and head to the field.

“The Bale Buddy pushes the bale off one side of the truck so hay flakes off onto the ground. You can feed out a couple flakes at a time or feed it all out at once. Two models are available: The basic unit simply moves the bale off to the side of the pickup and lets gravity drop off four or more flakes of hay at



“We think it will revolutionize the feeding of big square bales,” says co-inventor **Todd Whatley.**

a time. For more precise control, you can fit the basic model with a Flaker unit that has a motorized paddle which pulls the flakes off. Makes it possible to precisely feed out any bale, even those in poor condition.”

Both models are powered by motorized winches that move the bales out to the side of the truck. If you just have the base unit installed, a gooseneck hitch can still be used without removing the bale unit. If you have the Flaker unit installed, it must be removed before you can hook up a gooseneck.

“We’ve conducted a worldwide patent search without finding anything similar. It works great and we think it will revolutionize the feeding of square bales to livestock. The big advantage is the simplicity - it can be operated by anyone - man, woman or older child.”

Sells for \$1,200 to \$2,000, depending on the size of model needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Todd Whatley, Bale Buddy Mfg., Inc., P.O. Box 233, Hennepin, Okla. 73444 (ph 580 856-3637).



Homemade sun shades are made from lengths of 2-in. wide strap iron welded at an angle to metal rods. They cover all five window's on Stout's tractor cab.

Do-It-Yourself Tractor Sun Shades

“After several uncomfortable summers in my 2470 Case tractor, I came up with a design for do-it-yourself sun shades that should work on most any tractor cab. It has resulted in a great increase in comfort for me on hot days,” says Mark Stout, Seymour, Texas.

“Before installing these shades, the air temperature near the windows would reach 95 degrees on a hot day. After putting shades on the cab's five windows, the temperature stays between 70 and 80 degrees on 100 degree days,” notes Stout.

He first made a frame out of 1 1/4-in. square tubing to fit each window. The slats are made from 2-in. wide strap iron 1/8-in. thick. Two 3/8-in. dia. steel rods run through holes at each end of the slats. Stout welded the slats to the rods, tilting them at an angle. The holes in the slats are 1/2-in. dia., so there's enough play to tilt them to the proper angle. Stout notes that if you drilled larger holes in the slats, you could tilt them at a steeper angle.

He spaced the slats 2 3/4 in. apart but says if he did it again he'd space them 2 1/4 in. apart.

He welded a pair of hinges to each frame



Stout welded a pair of hinges to each frame so they pivot out as needed to clean windows.

so they pivot out as needed to clean windows. They can be removed quickly when not needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Stout, P.O. Box 364, Seymour, Texas 76380 (ph 940 888-5141).

Hand-Powered Bead Breaker

You can separate even the most stubborn tires from a rim quickly and almost effortlessly with this new-style, Australian-designed bead breaker.

“Tyrepliers” is a three-levered scissors-type tool for use on 10 to 16 1/2-in. tires. It can be used on any rim, alloy or steel, without damaging the rim or sidewall.

To use, you adjust the lower lever, which is fitted on both ends with jaws that fit between the bead and flange of the rim. Then you simply work the two scissor handles back and forth to loosen the bead and repeat around the rim on both sides until the tire comes free.

Sells for \$119.95. Includes an adapter that allows the tool to be used on 4 to 9-in. 4-WD ATV rims. Comes in canvas storage bag.

The company also sells Truckpliers for semi trucks, tractors and implements, that break beads on 16 to 24 1/2-in. rims. It sells for \$249.95.

The company also sells an optional extension leg for the “Tyrepliers” that allows the tool to be used on 17 to 22-in. rims. It sells for \$12.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Extreme Outback Products, 3069 Alamo Drive, Suite 327, Vacaville, Calif. 95687 (ph 707 447-7711; fax 7722; E-mail:



Australian-designed bead breaker is a three-levered scissors-type tool that can be used on any rim - alloy or steel - without damaging the rim or sidewall.



Larger “Truckpliers” are designed for semi trucks, tractors and implements. They'll break beads on 16 to 24 1/2-in. rims.

extremeoutback@prodigy.net; Website: www.off-road.com/4x4web/isuzu/tirepliers.html.

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. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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“Made It Myself”