



Hydraulically-operated 4-in. hooks push hay and weedy material through pickup (see arrows).

“Unplugger” Clears Balers From Tractor Seat

You'll like this new “unplugger” that lets you unplug balers from the safety of your tractor seat.

Jerry Schmitcke's prototype “Inforcer” was introduced at the recent Minnesota Inventors Congress at Redwood Falls, Minn. It consists of a pivoting 2 1/2-in. dia. double-strength steel pipe that mounts between the baler frame rails at the end of the pickup area. The pipe is fitted with a plate that extends widthwise all the way across the head of the pickup. The plate is equipped with four 4-in. steel hooks underneath to help push hay and weedy material through the pickup.

The system operates with a 2 1/2 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder and valve connected to the tractor hydraulics.

To operate, you open the valve to rotate the pipe and push the plate and hooks back towards the baling chamber to unplug the baler.

Can be adapted to fit virtually any round baler and is expected to be on the market soon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Schmitcke, 2801 171st St. SE, Menoken, N. Dak. 58558 (ph 701 673-3375).

Post Puller Attaches To Top Of Driver

You can pop steel fence posts out of the ground in a jiffy with this new-style post puller that attaches to the top of hand-held post drivers.

Rupp Manufacturing's post puller consists of a 30-in. long handle fitted with a hook that grabs the post and a cap that fits onto the post driver.

To use, you attach the puller to your post driver with two set screws. Each pull of the handle raises the post 4 in.

Two different size caps are available. The smallest is suitable for use on post drivers up to 2 1/2 in. dia.; the largest is suitable for drivers up to 3 in.

Sells for \$40 plus \$9 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rupp Manufacturing, 895 4th St., Cherokee, Iowa 51012 (ph 800 798-2522 or 712 225-3034).



Tool consists of a 30-in. long handle fitted with a hook that grabs post.



Three push mowers hitch behind Strong's MTD 46-in., 18 hp riding mower.

Ganged Mowers Cut 8-Ft. Wide Swath

“I got the idea because I have a 4 1/2-acre lawn. It used to take several hours to mow the lawn but I've reduced mowing time down to about 1 1/2 hours,” says Grant Strong, who built a hitch to pull three push mowers behind his riding mower.

The three push mowers are hitched behind an MTD 46-in., 18 hp riding mower. A pull bar runs across the back of the riding mower. A 6-in. strap iron bracket attaches to the front of two push mowers. A 6-in. chain runs from each bracket to each end of the pull bar. The chains hold the front of the towed mowers about 2 in. off the ground so the wheels don't drag around corners and float over uneven ground. The third mower is attached by chain to a strap iron bracket on the back of the push mower on the left side.

Strong removed the handles on the push mowers for better clearance under trees.

“The four mower decks cut an 8-ft. wide swath,” says Strong. “The trailing mowers move side to side with the contour of the ground without digging or gouging the lawn. I run the riding mower as fast as I can go and keep its tires soft to reduce the shock when going over bumps. I can cut right through 6-in. high grass with no problem. The pull bar on the riding mower is about 18 in. above the ground in order to hold the front two push mowers off the ground. The third push mower is also held about 2 in. off the ground. Each side of the pull bar contains a telescoping rod that's secured by a wing nut, allowing me to adjust the width of the pull bar for different mower widths.

“The hitches on the push mowers are about 3 in. above and 3 in. in front of the deck in order to keep the center of gravity high



Pull bar runs across the back of riding mower.



The third mower is attached by chain to a strap iron bracket on the back of the push mower on the left side.

enough to prevent rollovers and to keep the mowers from hitting each other when turning or during sudden stops.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grant Strong, 4491 W. 100 S., Wabash, Ind. 46992 (ph 219 563-7168).

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Do Soybeans Make Good Silage?

Soybeans might make a good high-protein silage crop, says one researcher who's working with several different varieties to determine which ones might be best suited for feed.

Jim Johnston at the New Liskeard research station in Ontario, Canada, last year worked with two 90 to 95-day soybean varieties and is working with a couple more this year.

Small test plots of soybeans were drilled at 100 to 120 lbs. per acre the second week of May and were harvested from late August through mid-September.

Yields averaged 2.8 tons per acre, with grain comprising about 15 percent of total weight. Leaf content was a low 23 percent in late August and dropped sharply afterward.

Johnston expects the total grain ratio to increase most years and says a higher leaf content would likely improve forage quality.

Crude protein was 13.5 percent, ADF 28.1 percent, NDF 40 percent and total digestible nutrients 70.6 percent.

Quality was similar to mixed hay for crude protein with fiber levels on par with legume hay, Johnston says, and energy was higher than top-quality alfalfa.

“With moderate protein and high energy, it would be a decent backgrounding ration for beef cattle,” he says. “Other options are dairy cattle and sheep.”

Total silage yield was 75 to 100 percent of the 4 tons per acre growers expect from two cuttings of alfalfa in the area, Johnson says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Johnston, New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station, P.O. Box 4020, 340 Armstrong St., New Liskeard, Ontario, Canada P0J 1P0 (ph 705 647-8525, ext. 223; fax 9220). (Farm & Country)