Weigh Scale Designed For Skid-Steer Loaders

"It's the only portable weigh scale designed specifically for skid-steer loaders that we know of," says Karen Fouts whose company distributes a new-style electronic monitor from England.

RDS Technology's "Weighlog 2" weighs and records weights to an accuracy of plus or minus 2 percent of a load by measuring the hydraulic pressure in the lift arms. A microprocessor converts the hydraulic pressure to pounds as the lift arm raises.

The unit has an illuminated LCD readout that can be used to track weights of up to five different materials. It gives you the weight of each load and a total of all loads handled. If you're mixing feed, you can weigh each ingredient and get a total for each.

The system fits virtually any skid-steer loader and can be adapted to many tractor front-end loaders. It sells for $1,600.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RDS Technology Ltd., 242 Boothby Ct., Sewell, N.J. 08080 (ph 800 331-6563 or 609 374-1530; fax 0332; Website: www.rdstechnology.ltd.uk).

"Weighlog 2" weighs and records weights by measuring hydraulic pressure in the lift arms and then converting it to pounds.

Safety wraps reflect light from oncoming vehicles. The 2-in. wide reflective strips wrap around a horse or mule's legs and are held in place with Velcro.

"Slow Moving" Safety Wraps For Horses

Nighttime horseback riders are hard to miss if outfitted with these new reflective safety wraps that reflect light from oncoming vehicles.

They consist of 2-in. wide reflective strips that wrap around a horse or mule's legs and are held in place with Velcro.

To use, you simply measure the circumference of the animal's leg to determine which size - small (9 1/2-in. cir.), medium (12 1/2-in. cir.) or large (13 1/2-in. cir.) - is needed.

They come four to a pack and sell for $18.33, $19.35 and $20.32, respectively, plus $3 S&H.

The company also sells a full line of other reflective safety equipment, including arm and leg bands, safety belts and hat bands for riders and a new-style SMV emblem and reflective tape for carriages, wagons and buggies.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, D.W. Safety Lights, 10206A C. R. 1, Shreve, Ohio 44676 (ph 330 567-9252).

Floating Weed Cutter Cleans Up Lakes, Ponds

"There are big commercial units available, but there was nothing on the market for smaller jobs," says Brian Gifford who designed and built a floating weed "harvester" that he and his stepson Dave Lyttle use to cut weeds in area lakes and canals.

The Stony Plain, Alberta, inventor built his "Sea Horse", as it's called, out of an assortment of odds and ends and commercial parts.

It's powered by an 11 hp Honda engine mid-mounted in the 14-ft. long by 8 1/2- ft. wide watercraft, which weighs about 1,500 lbs. It's equipped with a pair of 14-ft. long plastic pontoons and 5-bladed steel paddlewheels on each side. The hydraulic-driven paddlewheels are powered independently so it turns on a dime, Gifford says.

The front is fitted with a 12-ft. wide swather sicklebar Gifford got from a local farm equipment dealer. It's lowered hydraulically to a cutterbar depth of up to 4 ft. Extensions increase cutting depth to a maximum of 7 ft.

Once weeds are cut, the sicklebar is replaced by a 12-ft. wide wire mesh basket to collect the clippings.

Gifford uses the machine to cut weeds in ponds in parks, golf courses and canals across the province and says business has never been better.

Cost of building the harvester was about $20,000 (Canadian), including the trailer he uses to pull it behind his pickup.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Gifford, Box 32, Site 270, R.R. 2, Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada T7Z 1X2 (ph 780 963-4773; fax 8923).

A pair of forks, recessed in deck, push pairs of bales backward on trailer's rear deck.

Low-Cost "Retriever" For Mid-Size Square Bales

There are a number of big square bale handling rigs on the market that sell for $30,000 to $40,000 or more. So there was a lot of interest in this $10,500 bale "retriever" when it was introduced at the recent Mid-America Alfalfa Expo in Hastings, Neb.

You can pull it with a heavy duty pickup or tractor. "It's a low-cost way for one person to get bales from the field to the yard where they're ready for stacking," says Larry Matlack, Stinger Ltd., Haven, Kan.

Designed to handle mid-sized square bales (3 by 3 by 8 ft.), the hydraulic-operated, tandem axle rig consists of independent front and rear decks. The front deck tilts to the side to load bales and the back deck tilts backward to unload.

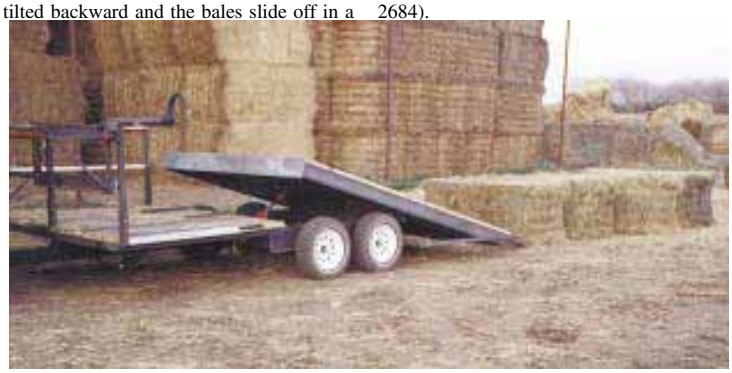
Here's how it works: The front deck tilts sideways down to the ground, then a large hook (at the end of a hydraulic cylinder that extends across the front of the front deck) grabs the bale and pulls it on the deck. Once loaded, the front deck returns to level and a pair of forks recessed in the deck push the bale backward. A second bale is then loaded and the two bales are moved onto the back deck by the forks.

The rear deck holds 8 bales, while the last two bales are stored on the front deck. Once both decks are fully loaded, the rear deck is tilted backward and the bales slide off in a row ready for stacking.

Front deck tilts sideways down to the ground, then a large hook grabs bale and pulls it onto deck.

"It moves bales to the stack yard faster than a front-end loader and costs a lot less than commercial bale loading and stacking rigs, which sell for $30,000 to $130,000," says Matlack. "The 3 by 3 by 8-ft. bales weigh about 1,000 lbs. apiece. We purposely didn't design this as a stacking rig in order to keep the cost down. If you pull it behind a tractor, it runs off the tractor hydraulics. A self-contained hydraulic power pack is needed to use it behind your pickup. The trailer and hydraulic power pack sell for a total of about $14,500."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stinger Ltd., 8905 Industrial Dr., Haven, Kan. 67543 (ph 800 530-5304 or 316 465-2683; fax 2684).



Once both decks are fully loaded, the rear deck is tilted backward and the bales slide off in a row ready for stacking.

"Sea Horse" has a 12-ft. wide sicklebar on front that can be lowered hydraulically to a maximum depth of 7 ft. A wire mesh basket collects the clippings.