



"My big bale flaker allows one person to both load and feed bales," says inventor Kenny Grellner. Unit mounts on any 8-ft. pickup flatbed.

Self-Loading Big Bale Flaker Mounts On Pickup

If you're looking for a way to feed big square bales, you'll want to take a close look at this new self-loading big bale flaker invented by Kenny Grellner of Hennessey, Okla.

"It eliminates the need for another tractor and operator, allowing one person to both load and feed bales," says Grellner.

His hydraulic-powered "Hay Flak'r" mounts on any 8-ft. pickup flatbed. It holds two 3 by 3 big square bales or one 4 by 4 bale. It's equipped with safety arms on front and movable forks on back. The entire unit is designed to be tilted 90 degrees onto the ground in order to load the bale. To load two bales they first have to be stacked one on top of the other (the forks can be used to do the stacking, if necessary). Once the bales have been loaded the unit is tilted back onto the flatbed. Then the forks are used to move the bottom bale forward and onto a conveyor.

To feed a bale, you take all the strings off the bale and then use the conveyor to push the bale off one side of the truck so that hay flakes off onto the ground. A pair of motorized rotating forks are used to pull the flakes off.



Rig uses a pair of motorized rotating forks to pull flakes of hay off bale.

Power is provided by a self-contained electric-hydraulic power pack that mounts on the flatbed. All controls are operated from the cab.

Sells for \$7,460 plus S&H. A model that mounts on a front-end loader is also available. It sells for \$3,760 plus S&H.

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Grellner also makes a front-end loader-mounted model is also available. Note conveyor and push bar that are used to push bale off one side.



Shawn and Todd Flynn use ordinary 8-in. cultivator sweeps to clear a path ahead of the disc openers on their Deere 1770 planter.

They Say Planter-Mounted Sweeps "Work Better Than Trash Wheels"

Trash-clearing wheels for planters caught on big time over the past decade, but at least a couple of Iowa farmers think they've got a better idea.

Shawn and Todd Flynn of Nevada, Iowa, use ordinary 8-in. cultivator sweeps to clear a path ahead of the disc openers on their Deere 1770 24-row, 30-in. planter.

The Flynn's don't like trash wheels. They think they disturb the soil too much and that they throw dirt which catches on row units and affects seed depth, especially under wet conditions. They simply mount field cultivator sweeps on specially-designed brackets bolted to the planter frame just ahead of each row unit. The sweeps are set to just skim the ground and knock debris out of the way. "That keeps the planter row units running smooth without bouncing up and down," notes Shawn.

Each sweep bolts to a square steel shaft that slides inside a larger steel bracket which fastens in place with four bolts, using existing holes in the planter frame. Sweep height can be adjusted quickly by pulling a pin. Holes along the side are spaced 1/4 in. apart.

"We've used this idea for about eight years now with no problems," says Shawn. "Some



Sweeps mount on specially-designed brackets that bolt to planter frame just ahead of each row unit.

of our neighbors have also borrowed the idea on their own planters. We had been using the sweeps on two 12-row planters until we recently bought the 24-row model. We use the idea both to plant beans into corn stubble and to plant corn into bean stubble. The sweeps are just standard field cultivator sweeps. A local machine shop made the shafts and brackets that support the sweeps."

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Spreader Handles Both Husks And Chaff

Roger Foster's 1968 Deere 105 self-propelled combine was originally equipped with only a small chaff spreader. When he decided he also wanted to spread husks and cobs, he didn't want to spend the money for a new commercial spreader. He decided to build his own.

"I already had most of the parts I needed and was able to build it for less than \$200. Commercial models sell for several hundred dollars," says Foster.

The unit consists of a 3 1/2-ft. dia. 10-gauge steel disc that's rotated by a small hydraulic motor. The plate mounts just above and behind the combine's rear axle. A steel chute delivers chaff from the combine sieves down onto the plate. Foster cut some old V-belts into 1 1/2-ft. lengths and bolted them on top of the plate at intervals. The rubber strips grab the material and help swing it off the disc.

"It spreads the material out evenly over all the rows. I've used it for five or six years with no problems," says Foster. "The hydraulic motor is off an old grain platform reel drive system that I no longer needed.



Trash from combine sieves falls down onto a 3 1/2-ft. dia. steel disc that's rotated by a small hydraulic motor. Rubber strips grab the material and help swing it off the disc.

The motor runs off a hydraulic system on the combine that I had set up several years ago to run a down corn reel. I use a control valve in the cab to start and stop the motor. I paid about \$100 for the valve.

"If I want I can adjust the plate forward or backward by simply moving a pin."

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