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Balzer Unveils "Steerable Axle" Grain Cart

"It has the same independent running gear we've been using on our liquid manure tanks for years," says Curt Aalderks, Balzer, Inc., Mountain Lake, Minn., about the company's just-introduced "steerable axle" grain carts equipped with high flotation tires to reduce compaction.

The "Field Floater" grain cart, available in 1,000 to 1,500-bu. sizes, can be equipped with either walking tandem axles or independent triple axles. Hydraulic cylinders keep the steerable axles parallel to each other and allow them to follow the tractor's direction. When the cart is equipped with tandem axles only the rear wheels turn. When it's equipped with triple axles both the front and rear wheels turn.

The steering design is automatically activated by the torque of the tractor as it turns. To back up, the tractor driver simply activates a hydraulic lever in the tractor cab to lock the tires straight. Putting the tractor hydraulics back in the float position allows the tires to turn and follow the tractor.

"The combination of the steerable axles and high flotation tires results in less compaction than a single axle cart, and the same or less compaction than carts equipped with tracks," says Aalderks. "We offer various

high flotation tire options for the lowest possible ground psi. A 1,000-bu. cart equipped with triple axles with 850/50-30.5 tires only exerts about 6.91 psi. A big advantage of the in-line wheel steering design is that it allows the use of high flotation tires, which no other grain cart manufacturer offers. And because the wheels always follow the tractor, the cart also pulls easier.

"Another advantage is that the system costs much less than tracks. Our complete 1,000-bu. cart equipped with triple axles and 850/50-30.5 high flotation tires sells for about \$30,000, which is about what the tracks alone sell for on Caterpillar's grain carts."

The cart comes with a 16-in. dia. unloading auger which can empty 1,000 bu. of dry corn in only about 2 1/2 minutes. A 12-in. recessed floor auger keeps the unloading auger full during unloading.

Optional equipment includes an electronic scale system, roll tarp, Halogen lights on the discharge auger, a grain tank, and a video camera system.

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Farmer-Designed Low Cost Portable Hay Shelter

When hay producers Ken and Arnold Assenheimer of Barhead, Alberta, tried to find a low-cost, portable building to store square bale stacks, they couldn't find one that allowed the right configuration of stacks from their bale wagon.

The brothers spent two years experimenting before they came up with a design for a shelter that would meet all their needs. After they'd proved the design worked, they started getting inquiries from other farmers. Now, the brothers manufacture the hay shelters as a sideline to their farming operation.

The Assenheimers say their shelters preserve hay color and quality. They're less expensive than erecting a permanent building (just over half the cost) and can be easily dismantled to move or sell. Although they're more costly than using simple tarps, the portable shelters are extremely labor saving, provide much better airflow around the stacks, and are far more durable, they say.

"At the end of a long day of haying, no one wants to do a bunch of tarping," says

Jerry Hodge of Sun West Forage, the company marketing the hay shelters. "When you cover a stack with tarps, moisture gets trapped under them. Occasionally, in the export business, you have to hold your hay for a whole year before moving it, and if there's moisture under there the top row can be damaged."

Each "Sun West Shelter" is 27 ft. wide by 96 ft. long by 25 ft. high and holds 26 typical bale wagon stacks. They're also suitable for machinery storage. Because of the roof's pitch, snow slides off before any accumulation can put stress on the cover. The buildings are modular, meaning that the design is such that two or more shelters can be connected to each other. Gable ends are also an available option.

Arnold Assenheimer is an engineer, as well as a farmer, and he designed the shelters strong, with steel uprights every 6 ft. and 38 cable winches that tightly hold the one-piece canvas cover.

Standard Sun West Shelters building pack-

Post Pounder Equipped With Auger Digs "Starter" Hole For Post

Driving posts into dry, hard ground is not a problem for this new Australian-built post pounder that's being distributed in North America by Leo Van Sambeek of Hermosa, S. Dak.

The 3-pt. mounted unit is equipped with a small auger that's used to dig a "starter" hole for the posts, which are then driven into the ground by a powerful pounder.

"The starter hole lets this machine drive posts in straighter and tighter than any other machine on the market," says Van Sambeek. "On my ranch I've found that by first drilling a pilot hole, I can drive wood posts in rocky areas where before I couldn't even drive steel T posts. Because of the starter hole, wood posts can be driven in with less force, which reduces damage to the posts."

The new unit is operated completely hydraulic. The auger drive unit mounts on a movable carriage that latches under the dolly. The operator simply raises the dolly, swings the auger into position, and locks it in place. Different auger sizes are available, and auger changes can be quickly made using square-shank augers with no shear pin. A special rock drilling auger is available.

The entire unit can be hydraulically tilted 12 degrees forward, backward, or sideways, allowing it to be used on hills or sloping ground. A side-shift option can be used to move the unit to either side. A telescoping frame is available for installing tall posts. The frame stretches out to a full 11 1/2 ft.

The controls are on back, and steel guards separate the operator from moving or dangerous parts of the machine.

"I learned about the machine during a search over the Internet. It was just what I was looking for so I ordered one. I was so pleased with it that I became a distributor," says Van Sambeek. "I've used my machine to set posts from 3 1/2 to 9 in. in diameter. I've got the side-shift option which I think is a must for repairing old fences. It lets the operator drive along the fence and shift the machine laterally out to the fence to replace broken posts.

There's no need to back the tractor into the fence. The side-shift option also speeds up new fence construction because the tractor has to stay only within about 15 in. of the fence line. Hydraulically shifting the machine sideways to maintain alignment is a



Post pounder is equipped with a small auger. Controls are on back for easy access from the ground.

lot easier than moving the tractor.

"A telescoping frame lets you set longer posts. I also recommend purchasing a pto-operated hydraulic pump (optional) if the machine will ever be switched between tractors. Custom mountings can be made for truck or other mountings. It can also be mounted on a Bobcat or other skid steer loader. However, the side shift option can be used only on the biggest skid steer models."

A standard 3-pt. mounted machine equipped with a 3 3/4-in. dia. auger sells for \$5,630 plus S&H; \$7,430 when equipped with the side shift option; and \$7,530 plus S&H when equipped with with a telescoping frame.

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Shelter is 27 ft. wide by 96 ft. long by 25 ft. high and holds 26 typical bale wagon stacks. Roof's pitch allows snow to slide off before any accumulation can put stress on cover.

ages are currently priced at \$6,924 (Canada), FOB Westlock, Alberta.

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