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New-Style Big Square Bale "Stacker"

Kevin Martin, a welder and repair shop operator from Lititz, Penn., recently called FARM SHOW to tell us about the big square bale stacker and transporter that he built for one of his customers.

"This customer is in the custom hay hauling business. The stacker lets him load, haul, and unload bales quickly and without a lot of effort," he says.

The pull-type unit is powered by tractor hydraulics and is designed to haul fifteen 3 by 4 by 8-ft. bales or eight 4 by 4 by 8-ft. bales. It's equipped with an offset hitch and has a hydraulic-operated loading arm on front that's attached to a pair of lift forks. The loading arm extends out the side beyond the tractor wheel. The operator drives parallel to the path of the baler with the forks lowered to the ground. The arm rotates the bale 90 degrees onto the forks. The forks are then raised enough so the bale slides back. The forks are then lowered again, ready to receive the next bale.

The forks attach to a carriage on front of the trailer that moves forward or backward on a track. The carriage is operated by a hydraulic cylinder. Once the forks are full of bales, they are tipped straight up and at the same time the carriage automatically moves them back onto the bed. The carriage is then moved forward again and the forks are



At the unloading site, a pair of cylinders are used to tip the trailer so the entire load stands on end.

lowered to the ground. The loading operation is repeated until the bed is full.

Both side racks on the trailer slide in or out using a pair of cylinders mounted on each side. Sliding the sides in puts tension on the bales to keep them from falling over.

At the unloading site, a pair of cylinders are used to tip the trailer so the entire load stands on end. Both sides of the wagon are then moved outward, releasing the bales as the trailer is pulled forward.

Martin is looking for a manufacturer.

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Underground Pipes Carry Shop Heat To House

When a neighbor replaced his wood furnace with a gas one, Dale Denton bought the old unit to heat his 24 by 36-ft. metal shop.

Denton used the old Clayton forced-air furnace for a couple of years and then decided it put out too much heat for just the shop. In fact, he figured the furnace could also heat his house, which is less than 10 ft. from the shop. All he needed was ductwork to get hot air from the furnace to the house, where he already had forced-air heat from a propane furnace.

He decided the best way to do this was through underground pipes. He buried two lengths of 12-in. field drainage tile 4 ft. deep between the shop and house. One is for hot air and the other for cold air return. He connected the pipes to the hot and cold air ducts in the house.

"The hardest part was digging the trenches for the tile between the house and shop," he says. "There's not enough room to use a backhoe, so I had to dig it all by hand. Our house has a crawlspace under the floor rather than a basement, so to connect the lines to the ducts in the floor of the house, I had to crawl in there and work on my back. It was dirty work, but not that difficult."

The Dentons didn't do away with their propane furnace, but they seldom use it now. "I turn it on a couple of times a year to make sure it works and get the moisture out of it, just in case we should ever need it," Denton says.

Denton says the stove will hold "... as much wood as he can load onto a wheelbarrow..." and will burn a good eight hours on that, even in the coldest weather. "When it's warmer, it uses a lot less wood," he adds.

A thermostat in the house controls the furnace fan and damper. He says when the damper is shut, the furnace cools down enough that it's just warm to the touch. When the damper opens, though, the firebox heats up rapidly.

"I just let the radiant heat off the furnace warm the shop. It seldom drops below 60 degrees in there, even on the coldest winter days," he says.

The Dentons still use propane for cooking and hot water, but he figures the wood furnace



Dale Denton uses underground pipe to carry heat from the forced air furnace in his shop to his house. He buried two lengths of 12-in. field drainage tile 4 ft. deep. One is for hot air and the other for cold air return.

saves around \$2,000 a year in propane costs. Over the 15 years they've used the system to heat their house and shop, their fuel cost savings amount to enough to buy a couple of mid-priced pickups.

"I've never paid anything for the wood we use," he adds. "There's always someone around with down trees or a woodlot that needs to be thinned. Once in awhile, I'll trade work for wood." Denton says he enjoys cutting wood, and it's good exercise, too.

Besides the economic advantages, having the furnace in the shop means there's never any smoke or ash in the house. "My wife likes that part," he says.

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Custom Light Sends Message From Trailer Hitch

You can promote your favorite sports team - or farm equipment company - from the back of a car or pickup with new "Hitch Lights" that fit into a receiver hitch.

"The message shows up well at all times," says Bob Werner, Ledded Ltd., Carleton, Neb. "During the daytime you see the white plate with colored lettering. At night you see just the lighted up lettering. We've made lights for Deere, Case-IH, and Caterpillar. Deere uses a green plate with yellow lettering, Case-IH uses a black plate with red lettering, and Cat uses a black plate with yellow lettering."

The lights are 4 in. high, 8 in. wide, and 2 in. deep and fit into a standard 2-in. receiver hitch. They're equipped with a plug that fits into a standard trailer plug receptacle. A steel plate with letters laser-cut into it and a colored plastic lens behind it attaches to one side of the box. The message lights up as soon as the driver turns the lights on.



"Hitch Lights" fit into a standard receiver hitch on back of any car or pickup. Plug fits into a standard trailer plug receptacle. The messages light up as soon as the driver turns the lights on.

"Most of the lenses we make are in red or yellow although we do make some blue ones," says Werner. "Some colors may not be available due to state laws prohibiting them. A standard light sells for \$59.95 including S & H. Custom messages sell for about twice as much.

"The box is designed to fit Class III and



IV receiver hitches equipped with a 5/8-in. dia. pin. It's also available for smaller 1 1/4-in. receiver hitches, and we have an adapter for mounting on a bumper hitch. It fits a standard 4-wire trailer plug, but adapters are also available for other types of plugs. Locking pins are also available to prevent theft."



For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ledded Ltd., E. 3rd St., Box 147, Carleton, Neb. 68326 (ph 888 560-7719 or 402 356-4371; E-mail: leddedltd@alltel.net).