



Oversized 5 by 6-ft. wood pallet slips onto wagon's rear forks.

Pallets Make Hay Handling Easier

Commercial hay grower Steve Hedrick wanted an easier way to move small square bales into storage. He uses a New Holland 1002 Bale Wagon, which accumulates and stacks up to 55 bales at a time.

"What we needed was a way to move stacks with a front-end loader," says Hedrick, who grows about 150 acres of alfalfa and mixed hay near Peebles, Ohio.

The 1002 wagon is designed to pick up bales in the field and stack them against a set of forks on back. The wagon tips vertically to drop its load. Once it's fully upright, the operator drives forward and the bales slide off the forks onto the ground.

"I figured if we could just set the stack of bales on a pallet, we could move them into the barn with a set of forks," Hedrick says. "The best way to do this seemed to be to put the pallets on the forks on the wagon before we loaded the bales."

To test the idea, he built a specially sized 5 by 6-ft. pallet that he could slip onto the rear forks. "It worked quite well," he says, so he built 35 of them to use last summer.

"I put one on the forks and secure it in place with a piece of baler twine before I go to the field to pick up hay," he explains. "When I have a load, I pull the wagon back to the barn lot, drop the load, put another pallet in place and go back to the field. It doesn't take much extra time and saves us a lot more time when moving hay into storage."



Bales are picked up in the field and then stacked on pallet at back of wagon.

"Not only was it easier to handle the bales this way, the hay was up off the ground," he says. "We had fewer bales spoiled because of mold. And since most of the hay I sell is picked up at my barn in pickup trucks, having it on the pallets makes it easier to get it out of the barn."

Hedrick says he wanted the pallets to be sturdy, but as light as possible. "I bought rough cut lumber to save on costs. I used 2 by 4 oak for runners and topped them with 1 by 6 poplar. The pallets cost only about \$4 apiece."

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Generator hooks up to an on-off switch, like a float in a water tank. When switch goes to the "on" position, the generator starts up, providing 120 to 240-volt power.

Self-Starting Generator Runs Only When Needed

"It starts and stops itself as needed," says Lee Dietsch of Dietsch Mfg., about the company's new Auto Power self-starting generator that runs on demand.

The 5,500-watt generator is powered by a 10 hp Briggs & Stratton OHV engine that's fueled by either LP or natural gas, there are two models of the new generator - the Model R and the Model H.

To use the Model R, the generator must be hooked to some kind of on-off switch like a float in a water tank, a pressure switch, a thermostat, or a motion detector. When the signal switch goes to the "on" position, the generator starts up, providing 120 to 240-volt power. When the controlling switch goes to the "off" position, the generator shuts down.

"It's ideal for pumping water, ventilation, lighting, and other needs in remote locations. You can use it as a primary power source in a remote area, or as emergency backup," says Dietsch.

The Model H acts as a standby generator in case of a power failure. It includes a transfer switch (no back feed to power lines) and a built-in battery maintainer. No other switches or controls of any kind are needed.

When there's a power loss, the generator starts up and transfers power demand of connected equipment. When normal power is restored, the Auto Power sensor shuts the engine off and switches the power demand back to the utility company. No manual intervention is required.

To set it up, you simply plug the devices you wanted protected into outlets on the control box. Then plug the Auto Power into any existing 220-volt outlet.

The Model R self-starting generator for remote areas sells for \$2,095. The Model H self-starting backup generator sells for \$1,995.

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Front-End Mounted Spade

When John Carson, Sherwood Park, Alberta, wanted trees to landscape the grounds around his home, he decided to move them from wooded areas on the farm. To get the job done he built a tree spade.

He figured since driving forward is easier than backing up, the logical place to put the spade was on the front of his tractor. He started by building a square frame from 2-in. sq. steel tubing. The frame actually incorporates two 5-ft. squares, held apart about a foot by additional lengths of square tubing, so it looks sort of like a very short hay feeder.

In each corner of this frame, he mounted wedge-shaped spades, which he fashioned from three triangular pieces of 3/8-in. thick plate steel. The two outside pieces are welded to the center section at a 45-degree angle, with the points of each toward the ground. Across the top, each spade measures 32 in. and they're 4 ft. from top to point. Each spade mounts in a frame along with a 3-in. dia., 32-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder, and they're angled so the four come together at a point about 32 in. deep.

Carson located a control for each cylinder on the spade itself, rather than using controls in the tractor cab. He says getting off the tractor to run the spade is no problem and it gives the operator more control as the spades dig into the soil.

Once the spade points are in the ground, Carson says it takes a few seconds to get the tree out of the ground by raising the loader. It leaves a hole about 32 in. deep and 3 ft. across.



Wedge-shaped spades mount in a square frame that attaches to loader. Makes a hole 32 in. deep and 3 ft. across.

He figures the spade cost about \$4,000 to make and took about 50 hours in the shop. Figuring out the angles for the shovels is the tricky part of building a tree spade. Placing the cylinders on the inside of the shovels makes construction much easier.

Carson has moved more than 500 trees with the spade, most of which are now along his driveway and around the lawn. He sold several trees to neighbors and people in town, as well.

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