

Curved bars allow calves to get under feeder to retrieve fallen hay.

State-Of-The-Art Round Bale Feeder

A patented new bale feeder from Common Sense Mfg. is made out of 2-in. sq. tubing and is designed with a curved bale saddle that holds two bales. It mounts on a pair of curved skids and can be moved by a front-end loader. The curved bale saddle design allows calves to get under the bale far enough to get to the center of the bale. It also keeps calves from climbing into the feeder and getting stuck or hurt.

"By bringing the bale up off the ground and letting the calf get farther under it, she can reach all the way to the center of the bale and get all the hay out of the feeder," says Kelly Melius of Common Sense Mfg. "Other feeders on the market keep the bale off the ground and are designed with a trough underneath it to save hay. The problem is the

trough keeps the calf from being able to reach the middle of the bale.

"Another advantage of my design is that a full grown cow can only get in so far until her front shoulders can't get beyond the curved part of the feeder. As a result, she can't step on most of the hay that falls out of the feeder. Any hay on the ground is therefore more likely to get eaten."

A 2-bale feeder sells for \$600. Custom made models that hold 3 or 4 bales are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Common Sense Mfg., 16008 357th Ave., Faulkton, S. Dak. 57438 (ph 605 598-4157 or 605 216-0687; email: commonsense@westtelco.com; website: www.balefeeder.com).

Hitch Pin Hammer

"I've farmed all my life, and it seems like every time I hook up my tractor to a piece of equipment I need a hammer. So I finally decided to do something about it," says David Huntley, Deer Lodge, Tenn., who came up with a hitch pin that doubles as a hammer.

The hammer-hitch pin can be used either in a tractor drawbar or on the upper link of any 3-pt. hitch. It's equipped with a standard spring clip at one end.

Huntley knocks the handle out of a hammer head and then drills a hole into a 5/8-in. dia., grade 8 steel rod to make room for a spring clip. The rod is then welded onto the hammer head.

"It saves a lot of time and trouble when I need a hammer," says Huntley. "The hammer comes in handy for knocking driveshafts on and off my tractor's pto. It's especially useful if your tractor doesn't have a toolbox, or the toolbox is too small for a hammer. I've picked up all kinds of hammers at flea markets.

"The 5/8-in. dia. rod is the same size as a



Huntley makes all kinds of hitch pin hammers.

Cat. I pin. You can buy grade 8 rods at hardware stores for about \$5," he notes.

Huntley sells his homemade hammer-hitch pins locally for \$8 apiece and says he's willing to sell them anywhere for the same price, plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David R. Huntley, 1790 Gatewood Ford Rd., Deer Lodge, Tenn. 37726 (ph 423 965-3565).

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Forage Chopper Baffles Solve "Ruined Hay" Problem

When a field of windrowed hay got rained on, William Olin was faced with a problem. He wanted to use a forage chopper to spread the ruined hay out over the field. However, a conventional deflector would have simply deposited the hay in clumps.

The Nineveh, N.Y., farmer solved the problem by mounting a pair of curved metal baffles on the blower spout to spread the chopped material out uniformly.

"It took only about two hours to add the baffles," says Olin.

The baffles are 12 in. long and 3 in. wide, cut from a circular band of strap metal. They were then cut on a taper, leaving only 2 in. of the 12 in. length at the original width of 3 in. After cutting the baffles he used a hand grinder to smooth the cut edges. The baffles were then welded onto the deflector, dividing it into thirds. The baffles extend 7 in. beyond the end of the deflector.

"I've used the modified deflector on both waterlogged hay, and on hay that had been ruined by rain but was already dry when I chopped it back onto the field. In both cases, it worked flawlessly. There was no evidence of the old crop when I made the next cutting," he notes.

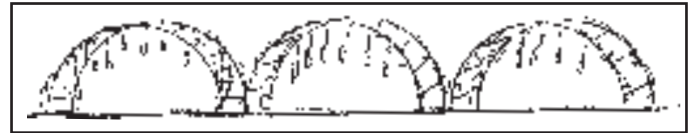
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William E. Olin, 336 County Road 26, Nineveh, N.Y. 13813 (ph 607 693-2854).



Curved baffles spread spoiled hay out evenly on the field.



Baffle is easy to attach whenever it's needed.



Growing cukes on hoops makes them easy to harvest.

Bale Rings Make Dandy Cuke Hoops

Bill Adams of Lebanon, Tennessee had some old hay rings with the bottoms rusted out, so he turned them into something practical for his garden.

Adams cut the bottoms off with a torch and unbolted the ring into three pieces (equal thirds of the original ring).

"I turned them over my cucumber row so the vines can climb up and over the rings," he says. "The cucumbers hang down for easy picking this way."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Adams, 2470 Belotes Ferry Rd., Lebanon, Tenn. 37087 (ph 615 444-9070).

Easy Way To Get Rid Of Stumps

"A stump grinder lets you a way to get rid of stumps fairly easily without having to hire a stump grinder or spend all day hacking away with an ax or chainsaw," says Dan Krenznel, Cullman, Alabama.

"I made it from an older water heater and a piece of stove pipe. I attached the pipe to the top of the water header using a finger joint. That's where you cut the end of the pipe into 1/2-in. wide strips and bend every other strip to a 90° angle and put the straight fingers through the hole and bend them over to lock the cover in place.

"You simply place the burner over the stump, add some kindling and other combustibles, and make sure there is a draft space between the ring wall and the ground using rocks or bricks. The burner will gradually burn the stump right down. It'll burn right down into the lateral roots and, once burned, they will not resprout. Takes about a day to burn an 8 to 10-in. stump. On real big stumps you could use a larger tank. There's no cost, very little labor, and it works quietly."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel Krenznel, 510 Elizabeth St. N.E., Cullman, Alabama 35055.



Burner made from water heater eliminates stumps quietly.