

CONVERTS TIRE PRESSURE TO WEIGHT

Make-It-Yourself "Tire" Cattle Scale

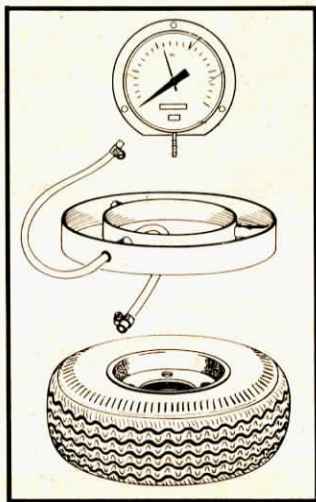
"Response to FARM SHOW's article on our Wheelie Weigh scale has been unbelievable," says Farel Bradbury, the British inventor of a unique tire scale made out of old tires filled with water and hooked up to a pressure gauge. The idea was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 8, No. 1, 1984 issue.

At the time of FARM SHOW's initial report, Bradbury had put together a book detailing plans for the scale, which can be built for less than \$50 to accurately weigh loads up to 22 tons. Now, because of demand, Bradbury Controls, Ltd., has begun to handle all components needed to build a tire scale and even offers a complete scale kit using new tires and components.

Bradbury says he was unprepared for the response to the original report. "We heard from FARM SHOW readers all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as from Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. We even set up a dealer in Australia. Although we ran out of our first book of instructions for do-it-yourselfers, we now have a new book, with complete details and costs of components, available for \$8.40."

The idea is to fill a tire with water, remove the air valve, and hook it to a hose that runs to a pressure gauge that converts the pressure to weight. A "load ring" that fits over the contact area of the tire, mounts on top of the tire. The load ring can be made out of wood, plastic, or any other stout material. Any tire can be used. If an older, bias ply tire is used, an inner tube should be placed inside.

Any standard air pressure gauge can be used. "Once you get it hooked up, you simply put check weights on the scale and calibrate it," says Bradbury, noting that his company sells



Drawing illustrates one way to build scale. Outer ring of load ring, center, must be filled with concrete.

scales that are already calibrated and easy to read. A 15 psi gauge, for use with a standard 15-in. car tire, will measure from 20 lbs. to 2 tons. The gauge comes in 4, 6, and 8-in. dia. sizes that sell for \$28, \$43 and \$70, respectively, plus \$15 shipping. A heavier duty 40 psi gauge is also available that'll weigh weights up to 5 tons. It sells for the same price as the 15 psi gauge. The drawback of the 40 psi gauge is that it is not as accurate at lower weights.

Bradbury also sells a complete tire scale kit. A new 15-in. radial tire, with a load ring and 6-in. gauge, sells for \$160 plus \$75 shipping to the U.S. All you have to do to complete it is to

FARMER HAS DO-IT-YOURSELF PLANS

Make Your Own Mufflers For Trucks, Tractors

"I got tired of spending \$100 a year for new mufflers," says Paul Hanselman, a LuVerne, Iowa, farmer who's come up with a home-built replacement muffler for cars, trucks and tractors that, he says, can be built in three hours by most anyone with a welder and a drill press.

The muffler is made with heavy 3/8-in. wall, 8-in. dia. well casing. A second, smaller dia. pipe carries exhaust into the center of the tubing and the ends are covered with heavy steel plate. Because the muffler is heavier than a standard muffler, extra hangers are needed to support it.

Hanselman says he bought a pile of used well-casing from a junkyard so his costs for making replacement mufflers are low — only about \$2 apiece. He adds, however, that if you bought all the components new, the cost still would not exceed \$10 to \$15 per muffler.

"I've had one on my Chevrolet 4-WD for two years of everyday driving and it shows no wear at all. It'll probably outlast the rest of the pickup and is as quiet as a conven-

put water in the tire and fill the load ring with concrete. All components are available separately for any size ranging from bicycle to tractor tires.

"We encourage people to build their own. No matter how you do it, this scale costs only a fraction of what commercial scales sell for," Bradbury told FARM SHOW.

As an example of how Wheelie Weighs can be used, Bradbury says the company has just finished an installation on a large poultry farm. Four tire scales were imbedded in concrete under each corner of a feed



Home-built muffler, bottom, made from well casing.

tional muffler," says Hanselman, noting that he used to replace mufflers nearly every year on the truck.

Besides his own pickup, Hanselman has also supplied home-built mufflers to neighbors and installed one on a small tractor. He's says it'll work on most any car, truck or tractor.

He's selling plans for the do-it-yourself muffler for \$4.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Hanselman, Box 250, LuVerne, Iowa 50560 (ph 515 882-3530).

hopper. The scale, which can accurately weigh loads up to 14 tons, cost just \$2,000, including concrete and labor. Bradbury says he has orders for 200 more such installations.

The do-it-yourself book sells for \$8.40 converted to U.S. dollars. The company requires payment in British funds, or you can send a ten dollar bill in cash.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, FARM SHOW Followup, Bradbury Controls, Ltd., P.O. Box 4, Ross-On-Wye, HR9 6EB England (ph 0600-890599).

MIXED IN WITH LIQUID FERTILIZER AND SEEDED WITH SPRAYER

New Way To Seed Alfalfa

You can get a better stand and rapid early growth that might double the yield of your first hay cutting if you seed your alfalfa along with liquid fertilizer, according to a custom operator in Pennsylvania who began performing the unusual service for customers last year.

Forry's Ag Service, of Lancaster, mixes alfalfa seed at a rate of about 20 lbs. per acre with liquid suspended fertilizer. The mix is then sprayed onto fields through No. 50 flood jet nozzles, often traveling at speeds up to 20 acres per hour. Once applied, the seeded ground is rolled with a roller or culti-packer.

"It's important to thoroughly pre-

pare the seedbed and to roll it well afterwards. I recommend rolling the field twice, going crosswise the second time, if possible," says Dick Forry, who operates the custom operation with his son Gary and son-in-law Ira Herr.

Some farmers are making amazing claims about the benefits of seeding alfalfa the Forry way. One farmer claims he got double his neighbor's yields on his first cuttings because of the fast start. Another says that, although he planted a week later than his neighbor, his crop was 2 to 3 in. taller than his neighbor's at the 6 in. stage. Another farmer notes that, although he didn't spray on his alfalfa,

he's convinced it works after watching his neighbor produce a crop that was "twice as good as mine. It starts out like a pistol and is as even as can be."

No modification of the sprayer is needed to seed alfalfa. The Forrys add the seed when the suspended fertilizer solution is mixed. A 3-in. pump on their sprayer keeps the seed suspended in the 5-16-16 fertilizer that's applied at a rate of 400 to 500 lbs. per acre. According to Dick Forry, it's the density of the suspended mix — which has clay mixed into it — that makes the alfalfa seeding idea work.

"One farmer tried to seed the alfalfa using just water and it didn't work because the seed tended to swirl around and bunch up. In the fertilizer solution, it spreads out evenly and seeds beautifully," he told FARM SHOW. "The key advantage is that you've got the fertilizer right where it's needed."

Forry notes that you can also add

herbicides and insecticides to the mix for even more on-the-spot control. The company doesn't charge extra for the seeding service. Forry has found that the service has been a good way to attract customers. "The results speak for themselves," he notes.

One important aspect of spray-seeding is calibration. The sprayer must be calibrated exactly to get the right amount of seed on each field. Also, the rig must be cleaned out well between loads to prevent plugging. Forry uses round tanks because, in the hilly country around their part of Pennsylvania, they find the round tanks empty better.

Forry is willing to help anyone who wants to try the method of seeding.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Forry's Ag Service, 2020 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, Penn. 17601 (ph 717 397-0035).