



Bale Stripper stabs bale with top lift arm and in the side with moveable spears.



Arm pulls bale out of plastic once it's split on the bottom. Handles up to 5-ft. bales.

“Stripper” Pulls Plastic, Netting Off Round Bales

A Norwegian company that manufactures a tool for removing net wraps from round bales and plastic from silage bales, is hoping to set up dealers in North America.

The TKS Bale Stripper is an attachment for tractor front-end loaders that makes feeding these types of bales more efficient.

“Farmers spend a lot of time handling round bales, especially when loading them into a mixer wagon. The Bale Stripper gets the job done in just a few minutes,” says Geir Kyllingstad, marketing director of TKS Agri in Norway. “What we’ve seen when farmers are putting a round bale in a mixer wagon is that they often need to climb on the edge of the wagon to take off the net or plastic, which can be very dangerous.”

The TKS Bale Stripper can be used on front loaders with one or two double hydraulic outlets. When there’s only one, it’s sold with an electrical valve to change between the functions.

The unit can handle 3-ft. to 6-ft. dia. round bales.

“We have patents on this product in all the countries that use round bales, and so far, we’ve sold around 100 units worldwide, including in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Japan, and Iceland. We’re just getting started with this product and we see big possibilities with it,” Kyllingstad says.

The price starts at around \$5,000 (USD), according to Kyllingstad, and the connect-



Plastic-cutting knife bolts to rim of TMR mixer. It slices through bottom of bale.

ing frame is extra, at \$483 (USD).

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Zero Turn Ride-Along Splitter

Splitting wood is almost fun with Shawn Smith’s zero-turn splitter. He drives to wherever the wood is, lowers the splitter and goes to work. If needed for big chunks, the splitter pivots up to a vertical position. Equipped with chains, Smith says the three-wheel machine goes about anywhere, chewing through snow or mud without a problem.

The splitter was built around an old Toro greens mower Smith saw at an auction a few years back. “Looking at the three heavy reel mowers on it, I knew it had the hydraulic power needed for a splitter,” says Smith. “It had two hydraulic pumps on it, and the 14-hp Kohler motor was in good shape.”

When he and a buddy, Chuck Hazelbaker, were temporarily laid off, they had extra time and decided to tackle the job.

“I wanted to be able to split bigger chunks that I couldn’t lift onto the table,” says

Smith. “So we hinged the splitting table to make it easy to switch to a vertical splitting position.”

Smith bought the Toro for \$100. Other parts, including the cylinder, hoses and valve, cost him another \$400. The rest of the splitter came out of his scrap steel bin.

The splitter itself consists of a 5-ft. long, 7-in. high I-beam that rests on adjustable legs. The upper legs are 2-in. square steel tubing that slide over and are secured by pins to 1 3/4-in. square tubing with 4 by 4 steel base plates. Mounts for the mower are 1 1/2-in. by 2-in. steel tubing that extend perpendicular from the upper legs. The mounts are sized for sliding over the lift arms on the old mower and pin in place.

“To extend or collapse the legs, we just raise the arms, pull the pins on the lower legs and adjust them,” says Smith. “We can pull



Shawn Smith built this zero-turn log splitter out of an old Toro greens mower.

the pins and drive away, or lift the splitter up and add a foot to the length of the legs. It’s handy for when I have wood to split in different spots around the yard and shop.”

The splitter face is a 7-in. wide, 14-in. long C-channel that’s welded to the full face of the I-beam. A 36-in. long cylinder with a 4-in. bore drives the splitter wedge.

“I tied the cylinder into the pump on the hydrostatic drive,” says Smith. “It’s not real fast, but it has plenty of power, and I can ride it over to whatever wood needs splitting.”

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Molded Plastic Signs Made To Last

EverMark Signs make it simple to post your property quickly, thanks to clips that attach to T-posts and adapt easily to other types of posts.

“The clips are molded as part of the sign,” says Steven Branscom, operations manager for Evermark, Inc. The lettering and color graphics are also part of the high-density polyethylene plastic mold. That design process along with a UV-protectant, allows the signs to be sold with a 7 to 10-year warranty against fading or cracking.

“They are lightweight - 1/3 lb. - but will withstand 80 mph winds when horizontal,” Branscom says.

At \$5.95 the 5 by 12-in. signs come with a big variety of standard phrases - “No Hunting,” “For Sale,” “Private Drive,” etc. Blank signs cost \$3.95, and come in a variety of colors, including the purple signs recognized as “No Trespassing” signs in

several Midwest states.

Custom signs are available with company logos and artwork, with metallic, fluorescent, holographic and other options.

“They’re 100 percent recyclable and made in the U.S. out of 70 percent recycled material,” Branscom says. “The farm and ranch industry is our biggest customer base, but we are also growing in urban settings and other industries.”

For example, Evermark donated 1,000 address signs to Greensburg, Kansas, to help people find their way around town after it was destroyed by a 2007 tornado.

Check out the company’s website for local dealers, or to ask about ordering custom signs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EverMark Inc., 421 W. 1st Ave, Suite D, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 (ph 620 669-9228; www.evermarksigns.com).



EverMark Signs are sold with a 7 to 10-year warranty against fading or cracking (left). Molded-in clips on back quickly attach to T-posts and also other types of posts.