



Introduced 12 years ago, the Bale Buddy now comes with a new “flaker” that cleaves flakes off one side of truck and onto the ground.



Flaker lets operator precisely control how much of the bale to feed at one time.

“Flaker” Makes Bale Buddy Feeder Even Better

FARM SHOW first featured the Bale Buddy 12 years ago (Vol. 23, No. 3). It allows an operator to load big, square bales on a flatbed and push off flakes with a motorized paddle to feed cattle. Bale Buddy’s new Flaker Assist option makes feeding even easier.

“We replaced the motorized paddle we originally used with the flaker, which basically cleaves flakes off, feeding precisely what you want,” says John Sparks, who along with Todd Whatley invented the Bale Buddy.

“Without it or the paddle, the number of segments that fell off the bale as it was pushed over the edge, depended on how tight the bale was. The paddle pushed off individual flakes. The Big Bale Flaker gives the operator better control of how much of the bale he wants to feed at one time.”

The Bale Buddy still uses motorized winches and a skid plate to move the bales to the side of the flatbed, controlled by a remote control in the cab. With the flaker, there’s a

second remote that cleaves off a section, and breaks up tight chunks.

“Our reloader repositions new bales in the flaker once an initial bale has been fed,” says Sparks. “The skid plate returns to home position, and the Bale Buddy pushes another bale into position with the flaker.”

A safety arm locks into place enabling you to feed a portion at one spot, retaining the remainder of the bale for another location. The flaker also has a “Flake Stabilizer” to

hold loose hay in place. This prevents flakes from tumbling forward in a domino effect.

The Bale Buddy is available with Flaker Assist in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6-bale models. The base unit is priced from \$2,550 for the single bale unit to \$7,700 for the 6-bale unit. The Flaker Assist is priced at \$900.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bale Buddy Manufacturing, Inc., P.O. Box 237, Hennepin, Okla. 73444 (ph 580 868-3330 or 580 856-3637; www.bigbaleflaker.com).

Tractor Lift Helps Hunter Bag Big Buck

John Whalen, 55, shot the biggest whitetail buck of his life from a lift on his Deere tractor this past deer season. It’s the second nice buck he’s bagged since 2008, when he became paralyzed from the waist down due to a benign tumor in his spinal column. He shot the first buck near a permanent stand his friends built him, but he needed to be more mobile this past season.

“They picked the corn around my stand and chisel plowed it, which changed the deer pattern. I was mostly watching three sets of fawns,” Whalen says.

So he decided to move around, using his tractor, equipped with a lift made by Life Essentials. The lift swings out from the tractor, and Whalen used it as a stand, 5 to 6 ft. off the ground with his feet on the front tire. After four days of hunting and watching deer, he drove to the right location on his

seventh try. He shot the buck 60 yards away with a scoped .50 caliber muzzleloader.

He called friends to help dress it out, but he was ready to take it from there.

“I had a log chain and carried it out using my loader to lift the deer with the bale spear. I drove it home 3 miles with the deer hanging off the spear,” Whalen says.

The 8-point buck had an antler spread of 18 ½ in. and should score about 120.

Whalen is thrilled about the deer, and his story appeared in a Twin Cities’ newspaper.

“There was so much positive input. Everyone is just as thrilled as I am,” Whalen says.

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Photo by Todd Vagts

Paralyzed from the waist down, John Whalen equipped his tractor with a lift made by Life Essentials. By swinging the lift out from tractor he can use it as a hunting stand.

Gold “Cancer Tractor” Is A Celebration Of Life

“After being diagnosed with cancer in December 2008, I decided to build a tractor that was different. Toward the end of my treatments I started building it with the help of my cousin, Wayne Atwood,” says John Martin, Circleville, Ohio, who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of what he calls his “cancer tractor”. It’s painted gold and red.

He started with the rear end off an old Farmall H. Everything else came from his scrap pile. “Over the years I’ve restored or rebuilt many different tractors, so I’ve always got a good supply of tractor parts on hand,” says Martin.

Farmall H’s were factory equipped with a 4-cyl., 152 cu. in., 26 hp engine. But Martin wanted to make this tractor different, so he used a more powerful 6-cyl., 263 cu. in., 70 hp engine off an old IH 403 combine (the same engine is used on IH’s 560 tractor

model). He used a standard Farmall H frame and hood. However, to make room for the bigger engine he had to add in new material to lengthen the tractor by 10 in.

“It really turned out nice – I get a lot of comments on it whenever I take it to shows or parades,” says Martin. “It took about 4 months to finish in our spare time. I painted it gold and red because those were the colors I had used years ago when I built an IH 460 tractor that I entered in pulling competitions. Wayne did a great job painting the tractor. It was fun to do and well worth the time we spent on it. And we may build another tractor in the near future now that I’ve received a clean bill of health in 2009.”

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After being diagnosed with cancer, John Martin decided to build a tractor that was different – a “cancer tractor” painted gold red and red.