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Once bale is wrapped, clamp arm cuts off the plastic and holds it for the next bale. A pair of angled rollers keep bale centered between the 2 arms.

“Poor Man’s” Wrapper Rolls Bale On The Ground

The high cost of commercial bale wrappers prompted a Pennsylvania inventor to build this simple, low-cost bale wrapper. He says it gets the job done for a fraction of the cost of commercial table-type wrappers.

The patent pending “Roll ‘n Wrap” mounts on either the tractor’s 3-pt. hitch or a skid loader and wraps and stacks bales in one automatic operation. Instead of a roller table to rotate the bale while it’s wrapped, the operator simply pushes the bale along the ground while a rotating arm swings around the bale with a roll of plastic. A pair of angled rollers keep the bale centered between the two

bale-wrap arms.

Once the bale is wrapped, the clamp arm cuts off the end of the plastic and holds it for the next bale. The unit is powered by the tractor’s hydraulics.

“It eliminates the step of loading the bale onto the machine and is a practical and affordable wrapper for the average farmer,” says inventor Jeffrey Sadler. “The operator never has to get off the tractor. A roller just above the ground pushes the bale along. It’ll handle 5 by 4-ft., 4 by 4-ft., or 4 by 3-ft. bales. It takes only about one minute to wrap a bale.

“The machine weighs only 500 lbs. Other

bale wrappers need a 100 hp tractor because the table sets several feet in back and is also used to load the bale, which adds a tremendous amount of weight. With this machine, you’re not lifting the bale, so a 50 hp tractor is adequate. It also has fewer moving parts, which reduces maintenance costs. And it allows you to use a smaller tractor.”

Sadler says the operator determines the number of wraps by adjusting his ground speed to the rotational speed of the rotating arm. The speed of the arm is also adjusted by turning a knob.

An adapter plate is available to mount the unit on a skid loader. “We’ve also tried using the unit on a tractor loader, but found it works better on a skid loader because you can see what’s happening right in front of you,” notes Sadler.

Sells for \$5,000.

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Bale feeder uses a bale unroller table that feeds hay out, and a set of 3-pt. bale spears that carry bale unroller around and also provide the hydraulics to power it.

3-Pt. Bale Feeder Powered By Bale Spear Hydraulics

This clever new bale feeder consists of two parts – a bale unroller table that feeds hay out to livestock and a set of 3-pt. bale spears that carry the bale unroller around and also provide the hydraulics to power it.

The frame of the bale spears is fitted with a hydraulic-driven jaw coupler that automatically engages a drive coupler on the unroller when the spears slide into the unroller.

To feed a bale, you use the spears to load a bale onto the bale table and then just back the twin spears into the frame to engage the hydraulic drive.

The top rotor travels at three times the speed of the bottom rotor, fluffing hay as it feeds out. The amount of hay fed is controlled by raising and lowering the tray side spear, tipping the bale into the rotors.

Tubeline now makes two 3-pt. bale feeders using the coupler and hydraulic drive. The

BF5000 3PH is a chainless style. Hydraulics drive the feeding rotors. The amount of hay fed out is controlled by rotor speed.

Tubeline is introducing a chain-driven unroller this spring. “The chainless unroller is simple with few moving parts,” notes Paul Horst, Tubeline Mfg. “However, it doesn’t work as well with weathered bales. The chain drive will feed out hay regardless of bale condition.”

The chainless version sells for \$11,990 (Canadian). The chain-drive BF5600 will sell for \$10,490 (Canadian). A front-end loader mount is available.

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To feed a bale, you use the spears to load bale onto table and then back spears into the frame to engage the hydraulic drive.



Rechargeable electric riding mower can cut up to an acre of lawn on a single overnight charge.

Electric Rider Mows An Acre Per Charge

This new rechargeable electric mower is so quiet it has a safety beeper when put in reverse. Its efficient electric motors can cut up to an acre of lawn on a single overnight charge at about the cost of a pint and half of gas. For its \$2,049 price tag, the operator eliminates nearly all normal mower maintenance.

“We are getting a very favorable response,” says Jim Brody, about the “Recharge” mower from Driven By Solar, Inc. (DBS). “The concept is almost universally well received. However, people are always hesitant to be the first in their neighborhood to try something new.”

One reason may be that in the past electric riders were often heavy and covered a limited area. The Recharge Mower weighs only 300 lbs., including its three lead acid batteries. It has a 27-in. cutting width and, depending on the length and type of grass as well as the terrain, one charge should be enough time (approximately 3 hrs.) to mow about 3/4 of a football field.

The Recharge has a steel frame with a molded plastic body. A 900-watt motor provides forward speeds of up to 4.3 mph and half that in reverse. Two more 900-watt motors power the blades, but only in forward drive. The mower offers five adjustable cutting heights from 3/4 in. to 2 3/4 in.

The mower is designed to handle riders of

up to 330 lbs. and tow an added 330 lbs. A 3 bu. grass catcher comes with the mower. A 30-in. wide dump cart is \$199.50, and a 30-in. lawn roller is priced at \$159.50.

Recharging can be done in 10 to 12 hrs. The Smart Charger included with the mower automatically shuts off charging when the batteries are full. Batteries should be recharged every two months when the mower is not in use and are expected to last for 250 to 300 charges.

Other features include headlights, drive interruption when braking, operator presence switch and blade safety start switch. The mower will not start nor will the blades be engaged without an operator in the seat. The rear bagger must also be in place for the blades to engage.

The Recharge Mower is available by order from DBS. Shipping is \$100, and the mower arrives fully assembled.

DBS also carries a number of lithium-ion battery-powered lawn and garden tools and soon will be adding a push mower.

“We will be introducing a cordless, lithium battery-powered push mower this spring,” says Brody. “It will weigh only 35 lbs.”

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