



When it's not needed, grapple fork folds back out of the way against loader arms.



Grapple fork folds forward instantly when needed. Front bar can be fitted with teeth.

Self-Storing Grapple Fork Folds Up Out Of The Way

"I wanted a grapple fork for my skid loader that I could fold out of the way when I didn't need it. So I built a self-storing fork that folds up alongside the skid loader's arms, allowing full use of the bucket," says Albert Callens, Marshall, Minn.

The patented fork fastens to the bucket and moves in or out by activating a lever from the cab. "It entirely eliminates the need to remove

the grapple fork from the bucket in order to store it," says Callens.

The grapple fork can be used with or without steel teeth, which attach to a front crossbar. All functions are operator-controlled by hydraulic actuators and electric-over-hydraulic valves.

The grapple fork comes with a large sprocket that's bolted on solid so it doesn't

turn. A chain runs from the fixed sprocket to a smaller sprocket about 3 ft. back that's connected to a short shaft attached to the grapple. To use the grapple fork, the operator moves a hydraulic control lever either fore or aft, which causes an actuator to draw either backward or forward on the chain. Since the large sprocket can't move, the entire grapple fork assembly is forced to rotate. Moving the

actuator backward causes the grapple fork to go into its storage position, with the bucket in "full back" position.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Albert C. Callens, 601 Village Drive, Apt. 113, Marshall, Minn. 56258 (ph 507 829-5238; albearec@gmail.com).



Hay Caps are placed on big square bales at ground level and secured with plastic screw-in anchors. There's no need to climb up on bale stacks to cover them with tarps.

Plastic "Hay Caps" Protect Big Stacks

Hay Caps designed for big square bales eliminate the need to climb up on bale stacks to cover them with tarps.

The caps are placed on bales at ground level and secured with included plastic screw-in anchors. Then the bales are set in place at the top of the stack.

"It takes less than one minute to secure each cap. The sides of the Hay Caps butt together, creating a continuous roof over the bales," says Mark Lawler, ITW Plastic Packaging, Denver, Colo.

"Hay Caps are made of recycled high-density, UV-resistant polyethylene and come in 3 sizes that accommodate 3 by 3, 4 by 3, and 4 by 4-ft. bales. They measure just under 9 ft. long. A pair of galvanized wire rope "loops" at each end are used to secure the cap

to the bale. You stretch the loops down tight and then insert the plastic screw-in anchors into the bale, either by hand or with a cordless drill.

"The caps extend over both ends of the bales so water drains off. The edges fit together tightly so water can't seep through. The caps are reusable and should last more than 10 years."

Hay Caps cost only about one third as much as a tarp over that 10-year period, says Lawler.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ITW Plastic Packaging, 4950 Colorado Boulevard, Denver, Colo. 80216 (ph 855 442-9227 or 303 316-6800; mlawler@itwplastics.com; www.haycap.com.au).



Wire rope "loops" at each end are used to secure cap to bale. You stretch loops down tight and then insert plastic screw-in anchors into bale with a cordless drill.

T-Post "Spade Props" Help Keep Posts Vertical

"I've always been a stickler for building plumb and square. This method lets me do that easily," says Keith Knoche, Powell Butte, Ore., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the 2 by 4 "props" he makes out of old T-posts.

"The biggest challenge for me is to set posts that remain absolutely vertical while tamping dirt around the base," says Knoche. "One day I grabbed some scrap 2 by 4's to prop up some posts for a shed front, but they kept slipping. I found a stack of bent T-posts, popped the metal spades off, and used drywall screws to attach the spades to the ends of 2 by 4's."

Knoche says that with the use of a level, he can use three of his homemade props to hold a 17-ft. pole in position.

"I've made up more than a dozen of these props in varying lengths from 3 1/2 to 6 1/2 ft. long," notes Knoche.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Knoche, 1291 N.W. McDaniel Rd., Powell Butte, Ore. 97753 (ph 541 447-5601).



After setting this post in the ground, Knoche used his homemade T-post "spade props" to keep post absolutely vertical.



He pops the metal spades off old T-posts and then screws them to the ends of 2 by 4's.

Have You Read Every Issue Of FARM SHOW?

Now you can! On your computer!

If you're a recent subscriber to FARM SHOW who missed many of our earlier issues - or if you just want to get rid of your pile of back issues - there's an easy solution: "FARM SHOW Magazine on DVD-ROM!"

This first-of-its-kind story archive disc includes a state-of-the-art "searchable" index that makes it easy to find any invention or idea from past issues (this "Data DVD" runs through the July-August issue, Vol. 35, No. 4, 2011).

Every story published in FARM SHOW is cross-referenced in one or more of 200 categories. Or you can simply browse through all the back issues at your leisure.

"FARM SHOW Magazine On DVD-ROM" sells for \$39.95 plus S&H. Comes with a 100 percent money-back guarantee.

This data DVD works on any personal computer (PC or Mac) that plays DVD discs. (Note: This is not a DVD video and will not work in DVD video players.)

To order, go to www.farmshow.com or use the Order Envelope enclosed with this issue. Or call us toll-free at 800 834-9665. Visa, MC, Amex, Disc. accepted.

