

Robert and Alice Tupper photo

Home-Made Mower Great For Mowing PIK Acres

Brothers John and Marc Durre, Minonk, Ill., salvaged a cutter bar and sickle from a 303 International combine to make this 12½ ft. wide mower which, they say, is "great for mowing PIK acres."

The frame, made of thick-wall pipe and channel iron, can be raised with the hydraulic cylinder. Rubber-tired caster wheels at each end of the cutter bar keep it from digging in on uneven ground. The gauge wheels are equipped with pins for adjusting sickle height to a minimum of 4 in. to a maximum of 10 in. The sickle is driven with a hydraulic motor using the tractor's hydraulic system. A divider (not shown) is used on one end

to separate the mowed and standing crop on each pass.

"It'll go most anywhere a conventional mower will go," says John.

"In addition to PIK acres, we've mowed lodged crops, standing alfalfa, and some sorghum that stood 8 ft. tall. We use the original guards and sickle, but did replace the old sections."

The Durre Brothers would be happy to compare notes with anyone interested in having a similar mower custom built from a salvaged cutter bar.

Contact: Durre Brothers, 329 Oak, Minonk, Ill. 61760 (ph 309 432-2616).

Compressor Squeezes Hay Bales To Half Size

"We bought a 10 in. diameter hydraulic cylinder and designed the rest of the machine around it," says Stuart McFadden, Canadian hay dealer who, along with Stephen French, designed and built what they believe is "the fastest portable bale squeezer ever made."

"The large cylinder is the secret. It provides the speed and power required to do an efficient job of compacting conventional hay bales. It makes 80 strokes an hour or one every 45 seconds," explains McFadden. "Because of its size, we can operate the cylinder with a lot of power (about 40,000 lbs.) but at a low psi (about 1,350), which means very little heat is generated. We never have to stop to let the machine, driven by a truck-mounted motor, cool off."

Operation of the portable compactor (at a capacity of about 4.5 tons of compacted hay per hr.) is a four man job — one to feed in the bales, one to operate the compactor, one to tie and one to remove compacted bales

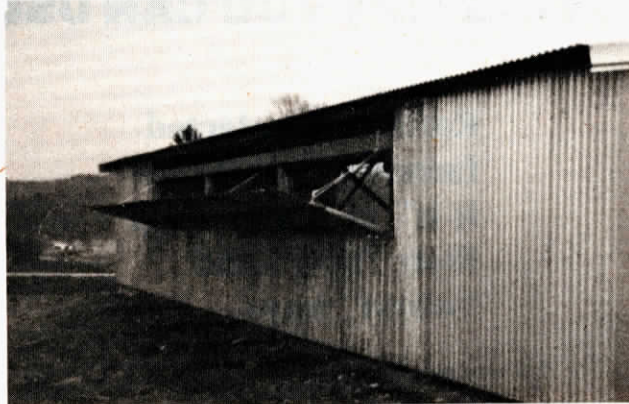
from the machine. The usual custom rate of compacting is right at \$30 per ton of compressed bales laid into an elevator for conveyance into a truck.

With 50 lb. conventional bales, two bales are squeezed into one 100-110 lb. bale measuring 16 by 19 by 29 in. Each compacted bale is tied manually with wire before being removed from the compactor.

McFadden notes that, normally, a truck can haul eight tons of conventional or standard-size bales. Compressing them allows the payload to be doubled — without hurting quality of the hay, notes McFadden.

"We have blueprints and could have compacting machines custom built," reports McFadden.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ontario Hay Exporters, 5695 Tremaine Rd., Milton, Ont., Canada L9T2X5 (ph 416 878-2639).



Blow-Out Barn Door

"Maybe someone can use this idea," says LaVern Henderson, Ettrick, Wis., about the blow-out door he installed on his 50 by 22-ft. loafing shed which has an open south end.

"I installed the blow out door on the back side. The door is 4 ft. by 20 ft. and folds down when the wind is blowing into the barn and reaches speeds of 25

mph or more. It is counter weighted and will close when the wind dies down. This door releases the wind pressure, preventing stress on the building and would prevent the roof from blowing off in extremely high winds."

Contact: LaVern Henderson, Rt. 2, Box 140, Ettrick, Wis. 54627 (ph 608 582-2957).

Stacked Bins Simplify Storage

Leroy Staffanson cleaned up his farmyard and simplified his on-farm storage by stacking smaller bins on top of each other on his Sidney, Mont. farm.

"We combined four small 1,100 bu. bins into two larger bins that take up less space and make it easier to store our crops, which are larger now than when the bins were built," says Staffanson.

He used a high-reach tractor-mounted hay stacker that he built himself (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 6, No. 6) to remove the roof on one bin and to lift the second bin up into mounting position. The bottom ring of the top bin in the photo was removed because of rust. Staffanson overlaid the top bin two corrugations over the bot-



tom bin and used a sharp punch to make bolt holes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Staffanson, Rt. 1, Box 3076, Sidney, Mont. 59270 (ph 406 798-3354).

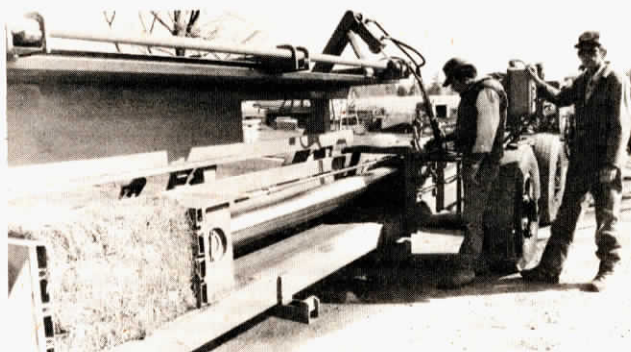


Photo courtesy Farm and Country