

Hay “Unroller” Has New Application

Since 1998, T. Whipple Simpson and son, Henry, of Cochran, Ga. have been building and selling the E-Z Unroller to convert large round bales of hay into more user-friendly small square bales. “It lets us make small square bales when we have more time. It’s the perfect solution for any hay producer who wants to bring in the crop fast but needs to supply his market with small square bales” Simpson says.

This year, the severe drought in the Deep South has created a new job for the Simpson’s unique “Unroller”.

Northern U.S. and Canadian hay producers have demands for a way to easily convert large round bales into mid-size or large square bales for easy transport to areas of the U.S. or export markets where there is a shortage of hay. “Upper Mid-West and Canadian hay producers had an incredible year for hay production. The problem is most of the hay produced in that region was put up in rolls,” Simpson says. “We began getting calls about our machine to see if it could be used to convert rolls into mid-size or 3x4 big squares. We had already been working on this a couple of years ago so we were ready.”

By converting the rolls into mid-size or big squares, this opens up a whole new market. Once converted to big squares,



As roll is turned, hay is fed into large square baler similar to a small baler.

producers can get a payload on trucks and transport their hay long distances at affordable rates.

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“Unroller” Turns Round Bales Into Small Square Bales

“We raise 250 acres of hay each year. We sell most of our own hay to horse owners who prefer small square bales. The problem is that we use round balers in the field because they’re so much faster and require less labor. That’s why we came up with this unroller,” says T. Whipple Simpson and his son, Henry of Cochran, Ga.

“It lets us make small bales when we have more time. It’s the perfect solution for any hay producer who wants to bring in the crop fast but needs to supply his market with square bales,” he notes.

Simpson made his original unroller using all salvaged parts from discarded equipment. It took several years to get the design right. Power is provided by the tractor hydraulics and the PTO. Other options include a diesel power unit with hydraulics or a 40hp electric motor with hydraulics.

The unroller consist of four conveyor units that unroll the bale and then fluff up the hay or straw before feeding it into the baler.

“It takes only five or six minutes from the time we load on a round bale until we’ve got the square bales on the truck. The great thing



Simpson recently introduced a four-piece machine. While one bale is being unrolled for re-baling, you can load another bale onto the prep-table. When the first bale is done, you just flip a lever to advance another roll into the unroller chamber. (Unit shown is four-piece model.)

is that we can double the value of a big round bale by rebaling it. And we can do the work when we have time,” notes Simpson.

He says all components on his unroller are standard off-the-shelf parts. You can use any commercial square baler with the unroller. It generally takes 3 people to run the unroller at full capacity. One person with a front-end loader puts bales onto the machine and cuts the twine off.

A second person runs the hydraulic levers that

control the unrolling operation. All functions are reversible or can be stopped instantly.

The third person does all the stacking of square bales onto trucks or trailers. Simpson built and offers a conveyor to make this easy.

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