

Recent Farm Equipment Shows

Big Grapple Accumulates And Loads 3 Big Bales At A Time

As a fifth generation hay farmer himself, Maxilator sales manager, Russell Smith, is enthusiastic about the company's latest new product, the MEGAGrapple. It's designed to gather and lift three 8-ft. square bales at a time in either direction, making cross stacking easy.

"It lifts over the top to easily set hay on a trailer or stack," Smith says. With a telehandler, the MEGAGrapple can stack bales as high as 30 ft. That's difficult to do with fork-type stackers that often get stuck between bales.

The MEGAGrapple is a one-piece unit acting as both an accumulator and a grapple. One person can do it all – gather, lift, load

and off-load bales.

The MEGAGrapple requires enough horsepower to lift up to 2,000 lbs. and a set of auxiliary hydraulics to force the hooks into the bales. It works on 3 by 3, 3 by 4, and 4 by 4 big bales.

"We build our own hooks for the MEGAGrapple out of 1/2-in. plate steel," Smith says. "There aren't a lot of moving parts to wear out so it should easily last 25 to 30 years. It comes with a 5-year warranty."

The U.S.-made product was introduced last November and sells for about \$8,000. Like all Maxilator products, the MEGAGrapple is coated with thermoplastic.

The Maxilator website includes videos of



The MEGAGrapple is designed to gather and lift three 8-ft. square bales at a time in either direction. It lifts over the top to easily set hay on a trailer or stack.

its hay handling equipment, and where to find distributors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maxilator Hay Handling Equipment, 17 Rice

Rd., Rockmart, Ga. 30153 (ph 678 757-9990; russell@maxilator.com; www.maxilator.com).

Flying Car Doubles As ATV

Will flying cars ever become practical? The folks who build the Maverick, a roadworthy powered parachute, certainly think so.

The Maverick LSA "Flying Car" is a dune buggy-like vehicle that flies by way of a propeller at the rear and a parachute for lift. It's equipped with a dual drive transaxle/propeller and converts from a rugged, powered parachute to a road-legal, all-terrain car in only about 7 min. It's powered by a 190 hp, 2.5-liter Subaru engine, with one set of controls for both the ground and air.

The machine has a flight speed of 40 mph and a range of about 450 miles. A sport pilot license is needed to fly it. It goes up to 100 mph on the road and is public road licensable

as a kit car in most states.

Beyond Roads, a Christian missionary organization, developed the Maverick to provide transportation in frontier areas. With the Maverick they can land on a small strip of grass and then drive off on narrow roads into the brush.

The machine's wing can be ready to fly in 5 min. The rig can climb up to 1,200 ft. per min. and reach a 10,000-ft. altitude.

The Maverick has a base price of \$94,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beyond Roads, 10575 S.W. 147th Circle, Building 2, Dunnellon, Fla. 34432 (ph 352 465-4545; www.mavericklsa.com).



Maverick LSA "Flying Car" is a dune buggy-like vehicle that flies by way of a propeller at the rear and a parachute for lift.



Grapple can grab 2 bales at a time and rotates them 90 degrees.

Grapple Can Rotate Two Round Bales For Upright Stacking

Grabbing, lifting and stacking big round bales is easy with the Rotating Bale Fork from Haukaas Manufacturing in Canada. The inspiration for the product came from Saskatchewan cattleman Gord Kozroski who was already moving large round bales with a Haukaas big bale cart. When Greg Haukaas visited Gord to see how he liked the bale cart, Gord mentioned wanting to stack bales stovetop style rather than in a row. Within a month, Haukaas had built a prototype rotating grapple for Gord's loader.

"It cuts my loading, unloading and stacking time in half," says Gord. The heavy-duty grapple grabs 2 bales at a time from the ground and rotates them 90 degrees so they stand perfectly upright, Gord says.

"Stacking bales on end eliminates twine or

net wrap freezing to the ground, maximizes space in a hay yard, and preserves the integrity of the bales," Haukaas says. "I think this tool is something that a lot of ranchers will be interested in."

Haukaas is using 1-in. pipes for the grapple fingers on his production machine rather than flat metal. "The pipes grab the bales tighter and won't damage the net wrap," says Greg. "Our main goal is to move and stack the bales without damaging any of the twine or plastic wrap."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greg Haukaas, Haukaas Manufacturing, Box 8, Mortlach, Sask., Canada S0H 3E0 (ph 888 859-1111 or 306 355-2718; greg@haukaas.com; www.haukaas.com).

How To Tidy Up Tie-Down Straps

Anyone who uses tie-downs or ratchet straps will be interested in this new device that's designed to neatly wrap up loose straps.

The patent pending "Wrapadoodledoo" is made from lightweight poly and lets you roll up 30 ft. of leftover strap. And it's strong enough that you can drive over it without damaging it.

The device has a hand-cranked spool with a locking pin used to secure the crank. You feed the strap into the spool and use the crank to wind it up. Then slide the unit over the tightened strap and insert the locking pin.

"It eliminates the need to tie up the leftover strap or tuck it under something, and it works fast. It takes only about eight seconds to wrap 10 ft. of leftover strap," says Richard Confoey, inventor of the device.



"Wrapadoodledoo" comes with a hand-cranked spool that lets you roll up 30 ft. of leftover strap.

A set of four sells for \$39.95 plus \$11.99 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Confoey, Anmar Inc., 557 S. Meridian Rd., No. 4, Youngstown, Ohio 44509 (ph 877 787-2730; www.wrapadoodledoo.com).



Actuator arm opens bin and also applies up to 200 lbs. of force to keep lid tightly sealed when closed.

Automatic Bin Lid Opener

We spotted this new "Ezlid automatic grain bin lid opener" kit at the recent Western Farm Progress Show in Regina, Sask. The patented system operates off 110-volt electricity and lets you open the bin's lid from ground level by simply pressing a switch on a control box. An electric actuator is attached to a lightweight aluminum arm on the lid. One control box can handle up to 6 bins.

An optional solar-powered kit is available for remote locations. It uses a solar panel to

charge a 12-volt deep cycle battery.

"The actuator applies 200 lbs. of force to keep the lid sealed at all times. Both the solar panel and actuator are designed to withstand the toughest weather conditions," says inventor Shawn Poncsak.

Kits sell for \$300 to \$400 per bin. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shawn Poncsak, 46 Royal Bay, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7B 2W3 (ph 204 728-8907; ezlid@wcvwave.ca).