



Photo courtesy The Neighbor

Braunroth removed the axles and tires from 45-ft. livestock semi-trailer and cut off both ends, then placed it over gully.

## KEEPS CATTLE OUT OF MUDDY GULLY

# Covered Bridge Made Out Of Old Livestock Trailer

Cattle at the Braunroth feed yard near Bloomfield, Neb., have their own "covered bridge" made out of a 45-ft. livestock semi-trailer placed over a gully.

"It keeps cattle from having to walk through mud all the time to go across the gully," says Gilbert Braunroth. "The trailer is 8 ft. wide but only 6 ft. high so a tractor won't fit through it. This is the second livestock semi-trailer we've used in this location. The other one lasted for 15 years."

Braunroth removed the axles and tires

from a 1968 Wilson semi-trailer and cut off both ends. The floor was rusted out so he laid 3 by 12 wooden bridge planks tightly together across it to make a new floor. He then pushed dirt up to each end of the trailer.

He spent \$1,000 for the trailer and \$600 for bridge planks which he bought from the county highway department.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gilbert Braunroth, Box 120, Bloomfield, Neb. 68718 (ph 402 373-4622).



Bird feeder is made out of milk carton-type half-gallon container and resembles red granary on Dittmer's farm.

## New Way To Market Crop

Farmer-inventor Bill Dittmer came up with a new-style disposable bird feeder as a way to add value to his sunflower crop. He puts the feeders together on his farm.

The new bird feeder is made out of a milk carton-type half-gallon container and resembles the red granary on Dittmer's farm. The four corners of the carton are perforated. You push in the corners above the perforations before hanging the feeder.

"The corner openings are only big enough for songbirds like chickadees and goldfinches. That discourages larger birds like starlings which have trouble holding onto the perch and bending their head to get seed. The feeder is moisture resistant and will last about two months. It can be refilled through the spout."

Sells for \$4.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Dittmer, 1511040th St. S.E., Wheatland, N. Dak. 58079 (ph 701 347-4350).



Pto-powered "splitter hitch" lets Story operate two Case-IH 8550 center feed balers at the same time.

## "SPLITTER HITCH" LETS HIM RUN TWO BALERS AT ONCE

# Double Baler Hitch

"It lets me bale twice as fast," says Clyde Story, Goldendale, Wash., about his 3-pt. mounted, pto "splitter hitch" that lets him operate two Case-IH small square balers at the same time.

Story already had the two 8550 4-year-old center feed balers. They hitch up to either end of the 17-ft. wide "splitter hitch" which is built from 6-in. channel iron. The hitch is supported by a pair of offset caster wheels on each side. One baler mounts directly behind the tractor and is driven by a pto shaft mounted on the hitch directly in line with the tractor pto. The other baler is mounted off to the right and is belt-driven by a 9-ft. long, 5-groove belt that rides on a pair of 14-in. pulleys.

"I made most of my second hay cutting - about 100 tons - with it last summer with no problems," says Story. "If I start baling at 5 a.m., I can easily make 2,000 bales by noon. I built it because my boys are grown up and I don't have any help any more. I figured it was cheaper to build the hitch than it was to hire someone to operate a second baler. I spent about \$2,000 to build it.

"I find that it's no harder to operate two balers than one. I drop the bales on the ground and pick them up later with an automatic bale wagon. I turn the bales 1/4 turn on their edge so the wagon can pick them up. I modified the bale chute on one of the balers so that bales from both balers fall toward the center, giving me more room to drive in the field with the automatic bale wagon.

"The balers are 11 ft. apart but we use a 14-ft. swather. To set the windrows closer together I adjusted the windrower's deflec-

tor shields to throw hay to one side, leaving the windrows 9 to 10 ft. apart. I straddle one windrow with the tractor. The balers have 7-ft. wide pickups so we don't have to shift back and forth much to pick up all of the hay. Originally, I thought I could mount a baler on each side of the tractor but I couldn't figure out how to do it without driving over windrows.

"My 115 hp Oliver tractor has no trouble handling both balers. However, I don't use my splitter hitch on steep hillsides because it's hard to steer the tractor. The pairs of caster wheels are off an old Schwartz bale accumulator. They carry the weight of the tongues on both balers to keep the front of the tractor from getting too light, making it hard to steer.

"Gearboxes would probably work more efficiently than belts, but I would have had to spend \$5,000 to \$6,000 for new gearboxes and I couldn't find any used ones. I spent only about \$1,500 for the belt, pulleys, and bearings. I was worried that the belt wouldn't have enough power but it hasn't been a problem. It rides on grooved pulleys so it has a lot of grip. I use a bale tension adjuster crank off an old Deere baler to tighten or loosen the belt."

Story used 2-in. sq. steel tubing to anchor the right side of the splitter hitch to a bracket welded onto the tractor frame. A trailer ball hitch is mounted on each end of the arm.

"We don't have to travel on state highways so we just pull the two balers on the road like we do in the field," notes Story.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clyde Story, 307 Clyde Story Road, Goldendale, Wash. 98620 (ph 509 773-5784).



Baler behind tractor is driven by pto shaft mounted on hitch directly in line with tractor pto. Other baler is belt-driven by 9-ft. belt that rides on pair of 14-in. pulleys.

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