

Modified Stacker Works Great For Big Bales

When Garry Brown switched from small square bales to 3 by 3-ft., half-ton bales, he modified his self-propelled small bale stacker wagon to haul and stack up to 10 big bales at a time.

"I only need one loader in the field. It's really efficient," says the Genola, Utah, hay producer. "While one person gathers the bales to one area in the field, the hauler takes the load and unloads them in a stack."

Brown modified the wagon by removing the bale pickup. In the field, the stacker bed is raised up so a loader can stack 2 piles of bales 5-high (4-high if he uses a skidsteer). Then the bed is lowered to transport and tipped back up against the stack to unload.

If he has another loader where he is unloading, he has the option to stack bales on the front table as well.

Brown adds that a 2-bale, side-by-side stacker wagon can also be modified for 3 by 3 bales by removing the sides.

"The New Holland stacker has a big motor and is more maneuverable than using a pickup with a gooseneck trailer to pick up bales. It's much handier, and the stacker was something I already had and could convert," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garry Brown 177 N. 400 W., Genola, Utah 84655 (ph 801 754-3403; wilgerbin@aol.com).



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Bed tips back to unload bales in a stack.

Old Cultivator Shanks Used To Build Grapple Fork

A North Dakota farmer came up with his own inexpensive, heavy-duty grapple fork that mounts on the bucket of his New Holland skid loader.

Harlen Grovom, who farms near Park River, used part of the frame and some shanks from an old IH Vibra Shank field cultivator to build the grapple fork. He bolted it to the 6-ft. wide bucket on his New Holland 225 skid loader.

"I saved a lot of money and it's a great grapple. Cultivator shanks are always built strong so they'll stand up to a lot of tough use," says Grovom.

The grapple fork has seven 2-ft. long curved shanks spaced about 6 in. apart. Each shank measures 1 in. thick by 2 in. wide. He cut off part of the cultivator frame and bolted it onto the back of the bucket. A pair of hydraulic cylinders are used to raise and lower the entire unit. The frame swivels up and down on 1-in. thick bolts that go through a pair of steel bars welded to the frame.

"I use it to handle everything from rocks to 2-ft. long blocks of wood that I use in my wood stove. I'm amazed at how well it works," says Grovom. "Last fall I picked up



Harlen Grovom used part of the frame and some shanks from an old field cultivator to build this grapple fork. He bolted it to the bucket on his New Holland skid loader.

10 loads of rocks with it and never had to get off the skid loader at all. The shanks open up about 7 ft. high and are spring-loaded, so I can pick up really big loads."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harlen Grovom, 12643 Hwy. 17, Park River, N. Dak. 58270 (ph 701 331-0169).