



The 16-ft. long deck sits about 5 ft. off the shed's floor. The Wamplers store their grainhead on top of the rack and their 4-row cornhead underneath it.



Homemade grab bars on their loader allow Dave and Keith Wampler to snatch up combine headers and quickly stack them on or under the header deck in their shed.

Combine Header Storage Rack

Dave Wampler and his brother Keith save time and space when it comes to storing combine headers. Their homemade grab bars can snatch up headers and quickly stack them on or under the header deck in their shed.

"The grab bars slip over the square tubing on the loader quick-tach frame and grab the headers like the combine does," says

Wampler.

Wampler made the grab bars from 2 sections of 6-in. I-beam steel plates welded to the I-beam sections to grab onto the headers.

The grainhead is stored on top of the rack and the cornhead underneath. Once the headers are stored, the combine is parked in front of the rack.

The deck made of 16-ft., 4 by 6-in. treated lumber sits on end rails of 6-in. I-beam welded to the butt ends of 4-in. steel pipe. The deck sits about 5 ft. off the ground, offering sufficient space for Wampler's 4-row cornhead underneath.

"The grab bars and the deck are a simple solution to the storage problem," says

Wampler. "We can move the header out of storage and change it in less than 20 min. It works great, and when not in use, the grab bars are easily slipped off and stored."

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Skid-Steer Attachment Beds Free Stalls Fast

Jerry Miller has a quick way to chop bedding and spread it in free stalls and other loose housing pens.

"Our straw chopper tray can hold several small square bales or sections of large square bales," explains Miller. "When the tray tips up and locks in position, the bales feed down by gravity into the rotor."

Miller got the idea for the chopper from a customer several years ago.

"He asked us to make something that would let him use up some first cutting hay that had gotten moldy before baling," says Miller. "We've been making them for others ever since."

The rotor is fabricated from angle iron bars with mower sections welded to them. The sections stick out past the grill, grabbing straw and pulling it in. The sections are

staggered to ensure they cut the length of the rotor arms. The rapidly spinning arms also serve to propel or blow chopped material into place.

The hydraulic motor running off the skid-steer's auxiliary outlet gives the operator full control of both chopping and blowing.

"Most of our customers use it to spread straw into free stalls or calf sheds, where they put down a light layer each day," explains Miller. "Lots of straw choppers will put the material in a pile. Ours puts it where you want it."

Miller's straw chopper sells for \$1,750 plus shipping.

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Straw chopper can hold several small square bales or sections of big square bales. As tray tips up and locks into position, bales feed down by gravity into a rotor.

He Built His Own Square Bale Grapple Fork

Chris Kornkven, Whitewater, Colo., couldn't justify the expense of a commercial-built small square bale grapple for his Case 1816 skid loader so he built his own. It's a self-leveling model equipped with 12 bale hooks.

"It's designed to pick up 4 bales if they're laying in one direction, and 5 bales laying in the other direction. However, I don't usually pick up more than 4 at a time," says Kornkven. "I spent a little more than \$400, but it was well worth it because I can get bales into my barn a lot faster. It works great not only for stacking bales onto wagons, but also for picking them up off the wagon and stacking them in the barn."

"The bale lift is pinned to the grapple, which allows me to detach the lift from the grapple and use it to pick up other kinds of material," says Kornkven.

He got the idea for the bale grapple after moving from Wisconsin to western Colorado a few years ago, where haying is done much differently.

"The hay fields here are irrigated, with many farmers using flood irrigation where

water flows down a ditch or pipe and then flows out over the field in furrows created using a creaser. That makes for a bumpy ride when haying," says Kornkven. "Baling small bales here usually means the bales are dropped on the ground, and many farmers use New Holland bale stackers to collect the bales."

"However, I only put up about 700 bales a year so I couldn't justify the expense of a bale stacker. Unfortunately, all the commercial bale grapple forks I found were designed for bigger skid loaders or for tractors."

He bought almost all the material he used at a local scrap yard, using 3-in. square tubing and oilfield sucker rod. "My biggest expenses were for the bale hooks, hydraulic cylinder, and a valve that I had to add to my skid loader to provide auxiliary hydraulics," says Kornkven.

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Chris Kornkven saved money by building this self-leveling square bale grapple fork for his Case skid loader. It's designed with 12 bale hooks and can pick up 4 or 5 bales at a time.