

# FARM SHOW

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## WRAPS HIGH-MOISTURE SILAGE BALES BEHIND THE BALER

### Home-Built "On-The-Go" Bale Wrap Machine

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor

You've never seen anything like this home-built "on-the-go" bale wrap machine that Lewis Zimmerman, East Earl, Penn., pulls behind his Deere 530 round baler.

The first-of-its-kind add-on machine attaches to the baler axle. It loads and wraps round bales in one operation, controlled by an operator on a side-mounted platform. The machine's turntable hydraulically tilts 45° forward to accept bales as they exit the bale chamber and tilts 45° backward to dump them off after they're wrapped.

"It eliminates the time and tractor needed to pick up bales from the field and haul them to a stationary bale wrap machine," says Zimmerman, a custom baler who also milks 90 cows on his farm. "It saves an operation and doesn't slow up the baler at all. It also allows me to wrap high moisture bales on-the-go while they're perfectly round to ensure trouble-free wrapping. If bales aren't wrapped soon after they're baled, it doesn't take long before they develop a flat spot from sitting on the ground. The flat spot keeps bales from turning properly on the turntable. Also, commercial bale wrap machines cost up to \$7,000 whereas I built this machine for less than \$2,200. The only major difference between my machine and stationary commercial models is the hydraulic tilting turntable."

During baling, the turntable is tilted forward

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Baler discharges bale onto turntable (above). The machine then wraps it while the baler starts its next bale (top). Wrapped bale drops onto drag-behind canvas that prevents punctures in plastic.

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