

## New Baler Ties Small Bales Into One Big Pack

Krone's new "BiG Pack" 870 baler kicks a single bale about 9 ft. long that contains up to 9 small, individually-tied bales that are easy to handle when feeding.

An 870 big bale is about equal in quantity to a 3 by 3 large square bale, says Ryan Hatfield, Krone representative. Large and small bale sizes can be adjusted by the operator on the baler monitor. Small bales can vary in length from as little as 1 ft. up to 4 ft., 5 in. each. While the maximum rated length is 8 ft., 10 in., the single large bale can be as short as 3 ft., 3 in.

It's Krone's double knotter technology that makes the bales within a bale possible. Two double knotters tie the small bales, while a

separate set of 3 knotters tie the large bale. If small bales aren't desired, the operator shuts off the multi-bale function, and all 5 knotters tie the single large bale.

"No special handling equipment is needed," says Hatfield. "The big bales can be picked up with a set of forks on any tractor loader capable of handling the weight."

The BiG Pack 870 starts at \$165,000. The baler can wrap wet or dry, as well as high-density bales. The BiG Pack is also available in a larger version, the 1270.

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Krone's "BiG Pack" 870 baler produces a single bale about 9 ft. long that contains up to 9 small, individually-tied bales that are easy to handle when feeding.



Mark Hoover's horse-powered hay mover uses hand-pumped hydraulic cylinders that can quickly lift big bales into bale feeders or onto trailers.



Hoover made a set of pallet forks for the hay mover that can be used to load bins of produce and other material.

## Horse-Powered Hay Mover Uses Hand-Pumped Hydraulics

Mark Hoover says he's seen a lot of ideas for moving big bales without tractor-powered equipment but none of them were quite what he wanted.

So the Leitchfield, Ky., farmer, came up with the idea of using hand-pumped hydraulic cylinders that can lift several thousand pounds high enough to load even the biggest

bales into bale feeders or onto trailers.

The key, he says, was finding a hand pump that raises the lift boom fairly fast. He built the first one to move big bales but then also made a set of pallet forks to fit it for loading everything from bins of produce to bales of tobacco.

"My brother uses one I built to lift and

drag logs out of the woods. He says the only problem with it is that I should have built one for him years ago," says Hoover.

Comes standard with a bale spear, stabilizer prongs, and steerable wheels up front that are turned with a lever by the driver. Sells for \$2,800. Pallet forks are sold separately.

Hoover says he's also made units without

the steering front wheels (costs \$150 less) so it can be towed behind a pickup, ATV or a small tractor with no need for hydraulics.

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## U.S. Breeder Promotes Rare Dartmoor Ponies

Jack DeVroomen is one of the largest breeders of Dartmoor ponies in the U.S. and says anyone looking for calm, easy-to-work horses should take a look at the breed. Dartmoors are on the rare breed list with only about 150 to 200 registered animals in the U.S. and about 2,000 worldwide.

Dartmoor is moderator of Dartmoor Pony World, a Facebook page with about 2,000 followers, and he's also head of the Dartmoor Pony Society of America, Inc.

Says DeVroomen, "I'm from Holland and my sisters learned to ride on Dartmoors. We went to England to buy ponies in the late 1960's. Later in the U.S. I bought 3 mares and a stallion and have about 15 of them now. I name all of my new foals after tulips and use a system when I start with a new letter every year as we used to do in my native Holland.

Dartmoor ponies have lived in southwestern England for centuries, documented by historic bones found dating back to 3,500 B.C. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century they were known for carrying heavy loads of tin from the mines in the United Kingdom. Over the years Dartmoors gained acceptance as a hardy breed with excellent stamina and as a gentle breed friendly to children. The first attempt to define and register the breed occurred in 1898 when ponies were entered into a studbook started by the Polo Pony Society. In 1924

the official breed society was founded and continues today in England. The U.S. society is an official daughter society of the Dartmoor Pony Society in the UK.

Dartmoor horses are distinguished by a small head with large, wide-set eyes and alert ears. Their body is strong with a broad and deep rib cage. The mane and tail are full and flowing and their movement is free and smooth. They stand between 11 and 12.2 hands and can have bay, brown, black, grey, chestnut or roan coloring. Mature horses weigh about 550 to 625 lbs.

DeVroomen says two kinds of people typically buy a Dartmoor. Parents with young children who want a very docile and easy-to-handle pony are really impressed by these horses. Another group interested are people who drive carts for pleasure and competition. Older ladies like them because they're a smaller animal and easier to handle.

Though he has 15 Dartmoors now and all have names and a special place in his family, DeVroomen says any one of them is for sale to the right buyer. "I've sold them all across the U.S. The price is typically about \$2,000 for a grown animal, and I'm not making any money at that rate. It costs a lot to breed, feed and house them."

DeVroomen enthusiastically tells the story of a Dartmoor colt born at his Carolina farm



Anyone looking for calm, easy-to-handle horses should take a look at Dartmoor ponies, says Jack DeVroomen, who is one of the largest breeders in the U.S. Photo at left shows a Dartmoor used in cart racing.

in 2008. "When Esperanto was weaned, I gave him to my granddaughter and she just loved him. He was calm, friendly and like a member of the family. Eventually she grew up and was large enough that she couldn't ride him anymore. She trained him for a buggy, and I told her I'd sell him and put the money in her college fund. The buyer was a lady from the Carolina Carriage Club, and

to this day Esperanto is still winning carriage races. And yes, my granddaughter got the money for her college fund!"

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