

“Treadmill” Hay Feeder Feeds Out Round, Square Bales

Australian sheep producer Patrick Daniher was exercising on a treadmill one day when he got the idea for a new way to feed hay from a pickup or trailer.

His big belt bale feeder lets him feed out big square bales a flake or two at a time while sitting in his cab. Whether mounted on a truck or a trailer, the moving belt works great on round bales, too. Add sides and a directional chute and it can be used to handle grass, sand, compost, mulch, and more.

After fine-tuning his design, Daniher started marketing the Daniher Bale Feeder to the Australian market in single and double bale models. The single is just under 9 ft. long and 5 ft., 11 in. wide with 7 rollers. The double is the same width, but 16 ft. long with 12 rollers.

“We use 3-ply pvc belting for the belt,” says Daniher. “It is very durable and stands up well to hard use.”

The belt with its electric drive is controlled by a simple toggle switch or a remote. Cut twine ends are secured in string retention



Electric-driven belt feeder can be used on round or big square bales. Round bales are fed out by inserting steel arms into center of bale from either side.

Vol. 42, No. 5, 2018

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FARM SHOW (ISSN #01634518) is published 6 times per year for \$25.95 per year (\$29.95 in Canada) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 8500 210th St. W, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Madelia, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com; website: www.farmshow.com). Single copy price is \$5.95 (\$7.50 in Canada). Publication No. 469490.

In Canada:
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40032660.
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To:
Dycom Mail Svcs., 495 Berry St., Winnipeg, MB
R3J 1N6; Email: circulation@farmshow.com

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Sept.-Oct., 2018

slots at the rear of the unit instead of being left on the ground.

Flakes of square bales slowly drop off the Bale Feeder as the belt rotates. Similarly, a large round bale placed on a single length belt can also be fed out in a controlled manner with optional round bale offloading arms. Tilt the arms down and insert their spears into the center of the bale from either side. Cut the netting or twine and start the belt to unroll the bale.

The single length Bale Feeder is priced at about \$5,852 U.S., while the double length Bale Feeder is priced at \$10,292 U.S.

While Daniher does not yet have distributors in North America, he says he will in the near future. He encourages suggestions from FARM SHOW readers.

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Flakes of square bales slowly drop off back of feeder as belt rotates.

Zero-Turn Mower Powers Big Reel Parade Rig

Retired Kentucky farmer and inventor Robert Thomas says the self-propelled “Big Reel Wheel” he built and drives in local parades really turns heads.

“The Reel Wheel spins around, rolls back and forth, and turns on a dime,” says Thomas. “When I’m driving I swing back and forth, looking up when I’m going forward and looking down a little when I back up.”

Thomas’s Reel Wheel gets its power from an old 30-in. Dixon zero-turn mower with an 8 hp. Briggs engine. He’s owned that mower since the early 1970’s and says it still runs great.

The mower tires ride on a circular steel band that Thomas attached to the inside of two 8-ft. dia. pppe wheels made from spools that held wire for a power company. Thomas says the 8 metal spokes inside each big wheel, and a sturdy metal cross frame that he added between them, provide ample support for his Reel Wheel.

“The whole idea behind this is to have fun and make people smile,” Thomas says, “and I get to do that everywhere I go.”

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Thomas rides on a Dixon zero-turn riding mower, whose wheels ride on a circular steel band that’s attached to the inside of two 8-ft. dia. metal wheels.