



Chain pulls pushing arm that moves bales to the rear. Arm gradually pushes bales off one side of platform, then returns to front and swings over to push bales off other side.



Chain-drive kit can be used with or without flakers to peel off hay and silage bales.

## Multi-Bale Feeder Cuts Time And Labor

The Sinch Bale Feeder feeds out up to 10 large square bales fast and easy. Designed for larger operations, the chain-drive kit mounts to trailers with or without flakers to peel off hay and silage. It also comes in a 6-bale detachable model that can sit on any flatbed trailer or truck.

"In 2006, we wanted to bring back silage to our 500-cow dairy in New South Wales," explains Australian farmer Gerard Kenna, Sinch Bale Feeders. "There weren't that many big square balers in use at the time or ways to feed the bales."

Kenna came up with the idea of a cable-powered unloading platform. Initially he says there were a lot of headaches with cables needing to be replaced yearly. After 4 or 5 years of refinements, he came across a chain and sprocket used in the mining industry. It eliminated a second hydraulic motor and parts problem.

"Since 2012 we haven't had to issue a single spare part or had a breakage," says

Kenna. "The chain and drive sprocket are pretty much unbreakable. They have at least 7 times the strength needed for a maximum bale load."

Mounted in a channel running front to back and centered on the trailer, the chain pulls the pushing arm that moves the bales to the rear. The arm gradually pushes off bales on one side of the platform, returns to the front and is swung over to push off bales on the other side of the platform. With twines cut, the sections gradually fall off. An optional flaker provides more control.

A set of ropes attached to the arm can be used to capture bale twine or netting. Kenna suggests gathering the twines from a bale as they are cut and tying them with a rope. As the hay or silage is fed out, the rope holds the twines for later removal.

"The ropes eliminate having to pull the twines, and you always know you have them all," says Kenna.

The simple unit requires only 2 hydraulic

hoses, one hydraulic motor, and a single control lever in the cab. Even lubrication is kept to a minimum with one grease zerk on the basic unit and 4 on those with flakers.

As the farm began using the feeder, he reports the biggest surprise was the straight-up savings in labor. One man could do what required several in the past.

"One customer who fed out 180 big square bales of hay and silage a week reported going from 6 workers to one," says Kenna.

The safety of the system, with just an operator sitting in the cab, was the next biggest thing.

Another surprise was the system's versatility. Sinch systems are adaptable to a variety of trailers and truck beds.

Utah rancher Charles Redd was the first North American buyer. He wanted to install the platform as a 10-bale unit on a 40-ft. gooseneck trailer. Kenna traveled to Utah and reviewed the plans and components with a local welding firm.

"Within a month, they had it operational," says Kenna. "I was amazed at the suitability of gooseneck trailers, which we don't have in Australia. We have since found a manufacturer in Oregon who will do the entire installation on goosenecks."

Six-bale kits installed on 25-ft. gooseneck trailers in the U.S. start at an introductory price of \$19,035. An 8-bale kit on a 33-ft. gooseneck trailer starts at \$27,810. Flakers are extra.

"Trailers can be built specifically for 6 or 8 bales or for heavier loads," says Kenna. "Let us know so we can tailor the whole package to your individual needs."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sinch Bale Feeders, 4 Goodwin Ave., Warrambool, Australia 3280 (ph 011 61 419 575 515; or ph 435 459-1848; info@sinchbalefeeders.com.au; www.sinchbalefeeders.com.au).

## Kit Cleans Up Older Deere Hydraulic Mess

Scott Grove cleaned up leaky hydraulic valves on his older Deere tractors with a simple insert. The long-standing problem is one the company has yet to fix. Grove says it forces him and other owners of Deere tractors to replace O-rings on a regular basis, only to have the mess return. Grove's fix eliminated the mess and the need to replace parts.

"With my dad Jim's help, I made the original kit for one of my tractors 4 years ago, and it worked great," says Grove, who started a company called Wapsi Innovations. "Then I made a few more for tractors that belonged to family and friends. I realized there might be a demand."

Grove has kits for 20, 30 and 40 series Deere tractors. They consist of inserts, couplers, dustcaps and expansion plugs. In addition to eliminating leaks, kits convert the old-style outlets to ISO with one-hand, push-pull connection and couplers that connect under pressure and offer a breakaway feature.

Installation consists of stripping the OEM outlets down to the block, removing the barrels and O-rings, and replacing them with the inserts. Grove then adds the after-market ISO coupler that threads into the insert.

"A kit takes roughly 45 min. to install," he says. "It's very easy."

Grove bought a small lathe to make the prototypes. After getting a patent on them, he incorporated Wapsi Innovations and set

up a website. He also purchased an old turret lathe, a predecessor to Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machines.

"I used the turret lathe to produce the first 150 kits," relates Grove. "Last July we hit some dealerships and independent repair shops, and they all liked the kits. Then someone posted a link to AgTalk online, and demand exploded."

Grove has since upgraded to a CNC to meet the increased demand. Once again, a family member is helping out.

"My dad's machining background helped when designing the prototypes," says Grove. "My son Mike is a machinist and did the programming for the CNC. I do the production, and the inserts are still made here on the farm."

Grove says he has a design ready for the older 10 Series Deere. "I plan to eventually do kits for the 50, 55 and 60 series, taking the kit all the way through the early 1990's tractors. They all have similar leaks."

Kits are priced at \$329. Grove suggests checking with the local Deere dealer or calling Wapsi Innovations directly.

"We are starting a dealer network and have 3 territory reps," says Grove. "We are already shipping a lot of units to Canada."

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Kit converts leaky hydraulic outlets on older Deere tractors to ISO couplers that thread into an insert and connect under pressure.

