Plastic Bale Cap Protects Hay

You can protect baled forage from moisture damage, and remain safely on the ground, with these new reusable plastic bale covers.

Double "R" bale covers are semi-rigid sheets of recycled, 1/8-in. thick HDPE plastic with upturned edges on both sides. They come with a 10 to 20-year life expectancy.

The covers are available for any bale size including large square bales stacked on the strings or on edge; round bales up to 5 1/2 ft. in dia.; and bundles of small square bales.

The covers attach to the bale while it's still on the ground using a loop of 1/8-in. galvanized steel cable and a screw-in plastic hay anchor - one at each corner of the sheet.

To apply a cover on a big square bale the operator sets it on top of the bale, puts a half-hitch twist in one of the cables, and places the twist on the first thread of the hay anchor. Then he uses an impact wrench with a 3/4-in., 6-point socket to screw the anchor through the loop and into the bale. The operator then goes to the opposite end of the bale and pulls down on the loop to remove all the slack, and then screws in another anchor. The process is repeated on the other side of the bale.

"There are many advantages to our covers. A big one is that they can be applied or removed safely at ground level by one person, even in windy conditions," says manufacturer Rick Roberts. "There's no need to ever go up on top of a stack of bales.

"Another advantage is the covers don't need constant readjustment due to stack shrinkage and fabric stretching, as is required with regular tarps."

According to Roberts, the plastic sheets can handle winds up to 100 mph if properly attached. He says the upturned edges on both sides of the sheet help seal out moisture when rows of bales are stacked together. "The flat part of the sheet is 1 in. narrower than the width of the bale chamber, and the flared edges of the sheet are 3 in. wide and go up at a 60 degree angle. As a result, when rows of bales are stacked side by side the edges butt against each other to prevent water from getting between the bales."

Roberts says the cover design allows more air circulation around the bales than conventional tarps, which can trap moisture. "In most cases you can start stacking and covering bales as soon as they're baled," he says.

Round bale covers are octagon-shaped and the bales are stacked on end like barrels.

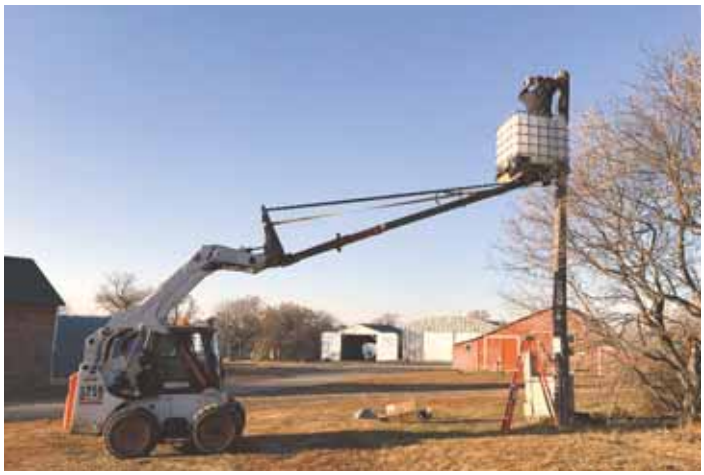
Reusable plastic bale covers are available for big square bales, round bales, and bundles of small square bales.

"They're installed using the same principal as square bale covers," says Roberts.

Double R covers for 3 by 4 or 4 by 4 big square bales sell for $82.50 plus S&H. The company offers 2 different sizes for round bales. A cover for a 4-ft. dia. round bale sells for $63.50 plus S&H; $86.50 plus S&H for a 5 1/2-ft. dia bale.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Double R Bale Covers, 335 N Chambers, Hay Springs, Neb. 69347 (ph 308 360-2350; rick@rrbalecovers.com; www.rrbalecovers.com).

Covers attach to bale while it's still on the ground using a loop of steel cable and screw-in plastic hay anchors.



Leland Heuchert used his skid loader-mounted chemical tote manlift to change the bulbs in his yard lights.

Chemical Tote Manlift

With an empty chemical tote, a couple of ratchet straps and square tube beams, Leland Heuchert made a handy manlift for his skidsteer.

"I wanted to change the yard lights to LED. But it's not safe to climb up 30 ft. on a ladder against a power pole," says the Saskatchewan farmer.

He welded square tubing pieces on the outside of a 4-in. square tubing frame. The tubing pieces are big enough to slip in the skidsteer forks and distribute the weight on the front and back of the forks. He welded angle iron on the other end of the beam to support the 1,000-liter chemical tote. An opening allows him to climb into it easily on the ground.

"I knew I had to set it at an angle (about 30 degrees) so when lifted it would be level at the height I needed," Heuchert says.

To add stability - and safety - to the tote, he hooked two ratchet straps to the end of the beam and strapped them to the skidsteer forks.

The tubing slips over the forks just like a pallet so putting it on and taking it off doesn't take much time.

The project was worth it because Heuchert installed about 25 lights around the farm. It'll come in handy for tree trimming as well. With a 13-ft. pole saw in the bucket he figures he can reach just about any branch.

Skid loader forks fit inside square tubing pieces welded to a steel frame.

Heuchert notes that his manlift is on a fairly large skidsteer. Anyone building something similar needs to keep in mind that any time something is extended, equipment can become tippy and unsafe. So it's important to have big enough equipment to handle the job.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leland Heuchert (lelandheuchert@gmail.com).

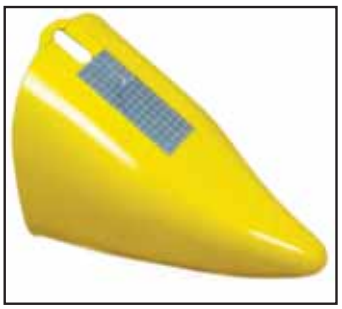
"Snoot Boots" Protect Cornhead Snout Points

These new Snoot Boots from May Wes are designed to extend the life of Deere, Case IH, and New Holland cornhead snout points.

Made from heavy-duty high-impact plastic, Snoot Boots are designed to easily slide and snap over existing snout points. They come with a smooth surface to aid in preventing trash buildup and feature a reflective metallic strip, making it easier for combine operators to see their snout points in down corn and after dark.

Case IH and New Holland Snoot Boots sell for $12 each and are available in gray for Case IH 2200, 2400, 2600, 3200 and 3400 series corn heads and New Holland 98C, 98D and 99C series heads. Deere Snoot Boots sell for $16 each and are available in yellow for 90 and 600 series heads.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May Wes Mfg., 120 Eastgate Dr., Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 800 788-6483; www.maywes.com).



Made from high-impact plastic, Snoot Boots snap over existing cornhead snout points.

Small Engines Run Portable Hydraulic Units

Farmers, hobby farmers, and handymen who need hydraulic power but don't always have a tractor readily available can opt for small engine-powered portable hydraulic packs. Northern Tool & Equipment sells different models of the Hydra Buddy that deliver enough gallons-per-minute flow to run conveyors, augers, lifts and a variety of hydraulic motors, including log splitters.

Northern's number one seller is the Brave, a wheeled model with a 270 cc Honda engine. It has 10.3-gal. capacity with a flow rate of 7 gpm at 1,500 psi. It sells for $1,599. The Brave Pro model has a 160 cc Honda engine that operates at 3,600 rpm's and delivers 7 gpm at 900 psi through a Haldex single-stage pump. It sells for $1,099 and an optional wheel kit sells for $139.99. Both units have 1/2-in. stainless steel quick-connect inlet and outlet ports.

Hydra-Tech offers more than a dozen different wheeled portable units with reliable Honda or Kohler electric-start gas engines, variable speed throttle controls, and gear-type pumps that deliver reliable power for continuous duty or on-location projects. All models have oil coolers, return filters with spin-on cartridges and remote pressure control valves. Output varies depending on engine sizes, which range from 6 to 18 hp. Trailerable models from 25 to more than 100 hp. are ideal for commercial applications.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Northern Tool & Equipment, Burnsville, Minn. (ph 800 221-0516; www.northerntool.com) or Hydra-Tech, 167 Stock Street, Nesquehoning, Penn. 18240 (ph 570 645-3779; www.hydra-tech.com).

Small engine-powered portable hydraulic packs produce enough power to operate everything from augers to log splitters.