



Three sets of hydraulically-operated bale spears extend and retract to grab bales in the row, with no need to crisscross the field.



Machine can handle a combination of big square and round bales on the same load.

New Big Bale Handler Clears Fields Fast

The Bale Handler picks up big square bales and big round bales quickly and easily, hauling as many as 12 large square bales from the field at a time. With its 3 sets of hydraulically activated bale spears, it grabs bales in the row with no need to crisscross the field. It can even load a mixture of big square and round bales on the same load.

"I got the idea after helping my cousin pick up bales with a tractor and wagon and a skid loader," notes Paul Derstine, inventor. "There are a number of bale loaders out there, and they all work the same - an arm flips down and loads the bale from the front. You're often limited in the size of bale they will handle, and they work best when you drive across the

field."

Derstine's concept lets the operator drive down the row of bales as they were dropped in the field, stab a bale, pick it up and set it on the rack.

"I've picked up nine 2,700-lb. round bales in a single load and carried them down the farm lane at a good speed without a problem," says Derstine. "The Bale Handler is built extra strong to handle roto-cut silage bales."

Derstine shares credit for the Bale Handler with friend and business partner, Lavern Hoover. It is Hoover who builds the units.

"It is really a collaboration between us," says Derstine. "It took us about 2 years to develop the concept and build a few

prototypes."

The final product is a trailer about 30 ft. long. The 2-in. hydraulic cylinders with their 16-in. reach push the 4-ft. spears into bales as the trailer pulls alongside. Once speared, 5-in. cylinders with 2-ft. reach push the speared bales up and over the rack. Radial flotation tires help minimize compaction.

Derstine says the biggest challenge was making a loader that would work with both square and round bales. The dual option has proven popular.

"The last customer we sold one to makes 1,200 big squares and 1,500 round bales in a year," says Derstine.

The Bale Handler is priced at about



Hydraulic cylinders push speared bales up and over rack.

\$19,500. For a limited time it is being offered at an introductory price of \$18,400.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bale Handler, N15635 Cty. Rd. E, Curtiss, Wis. 54422 (ph 715 654-0014).



Home-built wooden "tonneau topper" extends above and outside the box on Brad Kane's Nissan pickup. He uses it to carry two 6-ft. wide work tables.

Truck Box Topper Looks Like Fine Furniture

"The topper I built for my pickup cost about \$200 in materials, way less than the \$2,000 I would've spent on one from a manufacturer," says Minnesota carpenter Brad Kane. "And better yet, now I have exactly what I want rather than having to re-work a standard pre-built model."

Kane calls his creation a "tonneau topper" because it extends above and outside the box of his 2010 Nissan Frontier pickup. "It's not really a topper and it's not really a tonneau, so I just combined the names," he says. The risers on each side are 2 by 10-in. planks fastened to the rail of the box sides with self-tapping screws. Horizontal planks extend 5 in. outside the uprights, supported by 5 wood gussets on each side and screwed into the uprights. The top of each side panel has J guides made from 1 by 6 boards. Kane's two 6-ft. wide work tables slide inside those J guides toward the front of the bed and provide the cover. The tables are held in place with a locking wooden bracket so he can secure his tools. Kane says the design allows him to carry a gang box of tools and his chop saw under cover, out of the weather.

"Even though the tonneau topper isn't 100 percent waterproof, I can easily cover



Tables slide inside J guides toward front of pickup bed and provide the cover.

my tools with a canvas to keep them dry," Kane says. "I'm going to add a weather strip seal on the inside of the J channel and put a seal on the edge of the tables so there's not a crack for water to get in. Overall the design is a simple way to carry work tables without having to throw them in on top of the tools."

Kane used his finish carpentry skills to sand, hone, polish and stain his wooden tonneau topper to look like a custom-made piece of furniture. "It definitely looks like a carpenter owns it because it's not like anything else on the road," Kane adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad Kane, Lakeville, Minn. (www.kanecarpentry.com.; kanecarpentryllc@gmail.com).



Heavy-duty yard tarp has handles sewn into it, making it easy to pull it up onto a pile and dump it.

"Wheelbarrow" Yard Tarp

If you've ever used a tarp when doing yard cleanup, it's easy to appreciate the Yard Draggin patented by Stephen Shumate of White Bluff, Tenn. His simply designed tarp hauler can handle everything from gravel and pavers to tree limbs and plants.

"It's great for moving mulch or when you're trimming bushes. It's made out of heavy-duty tarp like they use for bags to hold 2,000 lbs. of gravel at home improvement centers," Shumate says. "With handles sewn out of the same material, it's easy to pull the Yard Draggin up onto a pile and dump it."

It's 4 ft. wide in front, 2 ft. wide at the back, and about 6 1/2 ft. long. It can be set up to have sides or laid flat on the ground to directly rake leaves into it. Grommets on the sides allow it to be staked down if necessary.

When you're done with it, Yard Draggin folds up to store on a shelf.

"That's the biggest selling point," Shumate says. "You can transport it in a car. It's a replacement for a wheelbarrow; you never have a flat tire."

Shumate, who is a pastor for a small church and does lighting work for events and conventions, says most customers



Tarp can be set up with sides, or laid flat on the ground to directly rake leaves onto it.

are homeowners or landscapers. One tree removal business recently purchased 3 Yard Draggins to move tree branches.

They're very durable, Shumate says. He still uses the prototype he made 6 years ago. He sells the manufactured version through his website for \$20 plus \$5 shipping.

"People will find more uses than I can imagine," Shumate says. "In my tool shed this is a tool I'll never live without again."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stephen Shumate, 121 Coach Dr., White Bluff, Tenn. 37187 (ph 615 476-1190; www.yarddraggin.com; info@yarddraggin.com).