

Bale spears are welded to a heavy steel disc and driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off tractor's hydraulics.



The powered bale unroller uses the drive wheel hub off an old IH combine and bale spears made from semi truck and car axles.

Powered Bale Unroller Built From Combine Drive Wheel

Duane Marvin, Preston, Iowa, went looking for a better way to unroll big round bales and ended up building a powered unroller using the drive wheel hub off an IH combine, a used hydraulic motor, and 2 bale spears made from semi truck and car axles. He uses his Deere 6125 MFWD loader tractor to operate it.

"I use it every day on my 300-cow calf operation. It's a great way to limit feed cattle

without wasting a lot of feed, because all the animals get fed equally," says Marvin. "I spent less than \$200 to build it, not counting my time. Everything I used to build it was bought used."

The bale spear is mounted on a rectangular frame made from 4-in. square tubing, with part of the combine's drive axle and wheel hub welded to it. The hydraulic motor is

hooked up to the wheel hub and operates off tractor's hydraulics.

He ground the semi axle down to a point to make a big spear, then welded it to the center of the drive wheel. He also made a smaller spear out of a car axle and mounted it off to one side. He used 1/4-in. thick steel to make a 4-wedge brace to hold the semi axle in place. The big spear sets inside a short piece

of pipe between the wedges. The small spear mounted the same way.

A pair of parking stands off an old side delivery rake are welded to both sides of the rectangular frame to hold the unroller when it's not in use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duane Marvin, 5643 421st Ave., Preston, Iowa 52069 (ph 563 543-6131; marvinfarm@gmail.com).



Trailer was made by mounting an old pickup body insert with tool compartments to an angle iron frame and tongue.

Lightweight Trailer Designed To Carry Parts, Tools

Bert Jones spent just \$750 to build a trailer that holds parts, fuel and tools. The 6-ft. by 12-ft. trailer is lightweight and all cargo compartments are lockable.

"I bought an old pickup body insert with tool compartments and mounted it to a frame and tongue made with 3-in. angle iron," says Jones. "I bolted on tandem axle assemblies from a boat trailer for good floatation."

The insert is steel reinforced rubber with a hard surface and came with a removable tailgate that slides up and down. It has 4 tie-down points on the top of the sides. When the 2 rear ones are tightened up, it squeezes the tailgate in place.

The insert came complete with side and front toolboxes. The side boxes are 4 ft. 11 in. by 4 1/2 in. wide. Storage compartments vary between 4 and 8 in. deep. Two front compartments with separate covers have a combined length of 3 ft. 10 in.

"I added a top rack for carrying sickle bars, ladders, and other longer objects," says Jones. "The front compartments are big enough to carry 5-gal. cans of fuel and we often carry a welder/generator or air compressor in the open bed."

The axle assemblies came with springs, eveners and steel fenders. Jones mounted new tires and wheels to the axle assemblies and a piece of aluminum to the back for a step.

"I got the idea after seeing some farming cousins dig through all the stuff they carried loose in the back of their pickup," he says.



Insert came with handy side and front toolboxes measuring 4 1/2 in. wide and 4 to 8 in. deep.

"I like building small trailers for special uses, so I went home and started putting this together."

Jones found each piece separately, having had to poke around some before he found the angle iron frame. One of the few things he had to have fabricated was the rear step.

"That single piece of aluminum cost \$30 to shear and bend," he says. "I didn't add lights, as they aren't required, but they could be found for around \$35."

"The insert won't wear out, and setting it on a low trailer makes it easier to access than if in a pickup bed," says Jones, who wants to sell the trailer and build another one like it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Embert Jones, 21791 Spur Lane, Pine City, Minn. 55063 (ph 651 307-9016).

Where To Go To Buy A Forge

Centaur Forge makes gas, coal and coke forges, and they make it easy to pick the one that is right for you. Company founder Bill Pieh started out making replacement firepots for leading forges of the day. At the time he was a professional farrier who had trouble finding blacksmith and farrier supplies.

"Bill ended up making his own forges with his Vulcan firepots. He also helped develop the PB50 blower. It has a rheostat control, so it can run at super low settings without burning out," says Bekki Baas at Centaur.

Pieh is gone, and the company is under new ownership. However, his method of working with and improving products continues with an in-house farrier and blacksmith. As a result, the forge list continues to expand.

"We continue to tweak products," says Baas. "Our models vary from stationary large forges with 12 by 14-in. firepots to small 12-in. round models that are easy to move in and out of a shop."

The company makes firepots specific for use with coke, as well those specific to coal. Baas explains that coke burns hotter and requires a 1/4-in. thicker firepot. Coke firepots are also an inch shallower than the coal equivalent.

"We sell throughout the U.S. and have been shipping a lot of product overseas," says Baas. "Europe simply doesn't have a lot of forges or other blacksmithing equipment."

Centaur also sells gas forges of different sizes with 1 or 2 burners, hoods and other accessories. Baas notes that gas forges can be easier for beginning blacksmiths. They are also more neighbor friendly if people live nearby.

"Gas forges are more compact and restrictive than a coal forge with the open top," says Baas. "If you go with gas, I recommend you get one with open ends so you can work from both sides."

Coal and coke forges vary in price by size and components. Larger, shop-type coal forges run from \$828 to \$1,448, with coke forges a little more expensive. The smaller Handy Forge is priced as low as \$682 and



Centaur forges vary from stationary large models with 12 by 14-in. firepots to small 12-in. round models that are easy to move around. Photos show company's Rivet Forge (above) and Handy Forge.



the lightweight, mobile Rivet Forge as low as \$461.

In addition to a large number of farrier and blacksmithing tools, including anvils, Centaur Forge also sells coal and coke. Other support materials for blacksmiths include books and videos. DVDs cover everything from forge basics like "How to Make a Fire" to "Forge Welding". Free videos posted to the Centaur Forge website cover the various anvils and blacksmith tools the company sells, as well as features and uses of Centaur's forges.

"Farriers are more repeat customers and blacksmiths less so, so we try to have the supplies they use, including new products and books," says Baas. "We also offer beginning blacksmith classes here from time to time. We often have kids from art schools who decide they would rather bend metal."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Centaur Forge, 117 N. Spring St., Burlington, Wis. 53105 (ph 262 763-9175; info@centaurforge.com; www.centaurforge.com).