

## Hydraulic Hitch Saves Time

Unhooking a 5th-wheel trailer is simple and quick with HydraBall. Just raise the ball hydraulically, drop the jack, lower the ball, and drive away. HydraBall makes hooking up trailers just as easy.

"It can take 50 strokes on a 5th wheel jack to raise the hitch up off the ball," says Terry Schieber, HydraBall. "At \$1,500 to \$2,000, putting a hydraulic jack under each trailer gets expensive. Installing HydraBall on your truck costs only \$1,200 and will handle any trailer you need to pull."

Schieber owns multiple 5th-wheel trailers for his business. He and a friend came up with the concept for HydraBall after hooking up and unhooking 5th-wheel trailers.

HydraBall is a 5 1/2-in. stroke cylinder topped with a standard 5th-wheel ball. Installation is relatively simple. The kit uses the existing 5th-wheel ball mounting plate. The installer enlarges the ball mounting hole to make room for the cylinder kit. Instructions and a template for drilling mounting holes are included with the kit.

"If you have any mechanical ability at all and a MagDrill, it's very simple to install," says Schieber. "Everything is done topside on your truck in about an hour and a half. If you prefer, we have a growing list of dealers and installers who can do the job for you."

Once installed, the cylinder can be activated by existing hydraulics, such as on a bale bed or any flatbed with an electric over hydraulic pump.



HydraBall in raised position to connect with trailer hitch.

The HydraBall isn't designed to be in the raised position during transit with the trailer. It also isn't designed to level the trailer.

Schieber notes that what HydraBall is designed for is catching on quickly. "We're shipping nationally, with dealers in seven states, and are looking for more," says Schieber.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, HydraBall, 621 East Chicago St., Stanberry Mo. 64489 (ph 660-853-1691; terryschieber@sbcglobal.net; www.hydraball.net).

"We give the operator the ability to do everything automatically without getting out of the cab, with a push of a button," says Weller.



## Big Technology Added To Small Bale Equipment

The SimpleBale retrofit baler upgrade gives small bale operators the same monitoring and control system available in large balers. It's currently available for Massey Ferguson Hesston® 1800 Series small square balers and may be available for other models in the future.

Instead of getting off the tractor to check bales, a monitor allows operators to make adjustments in the cab. That saves time and improves efficiency for producers who custom bale small bales to sell retail for a premium price.

"Consistency is an important factor," says Luke Weller, engineering manager with AGCO Corporation, which started selling SimpleBale upgrades in early 2024. "We give the operator the ability to do everything automatically without getting out of the cab, with a push of a button."

For example, small livestock owners who purchase small bales use hay flakes to measure how much to feed. So, the number/size of flakes per bale must be consistent. The in-cab monitor helps the operator determine how fast to go based on the windrow to do that.

The system also helps set consistent bale

length, hydraulic control, moisture sensing, and bale weight by adding optional features.

Customers who have used SimpleBale have said they wouldn't bale without it.

"Large operations say they'll switch their whole fleet because it's easier to train people, and for skilled operators, it creates a lot less stress," Weller says.

That's especially true in western states where operators pull a steamer between the tractor and baler because the hay is too dry. SimpleBale's auto density mode allows the operator to watch his speed and adjust the right amount of steam.

Contact your Massey Ferguson or AGCO dealer, Weller says, to order SimpleBale for fall delivery. Prices range from \$5,000 up to \$13,500 for the kits to retrofit either 2 or 3-string Massey Ferguson balers, which include the scale chute attachment that weighs every bale.

"The kits take about 8 to 10 hrs. to install, and customers have the option to install the kits themselves or have their local dealer help," Weller says.

Contact: [www.masseyferguson.com](http://www.masseyferguson.com) or your local dealer.



Standard gates offer premium strength for general-purpose uses. They work well as bull, cattle, and equine gates, though they really shine as dairy barn gates.

## Aluminum Frame Gates Easy To Move

Duralume of Linwood, Ontario, specializes in lightweight aluminum farm gates. Aluminum construction eliminates rust issues while maintaining a lightweight frame, allowing users to handle and move alone. This makes each piece easy to move and eliminates sagging posts while still offering a strength advantage.

Five gate styles are currently available: standard, mesh, puckboard, spindle, and spiral. Standard gates offer premium strength for general-purpose uses. They work well as bull, cattle, and equine gates, though they really shine as dairy barn gates. The standard height is 48 in. (though others can be custom-ordered), and lengths range from 4 to 20 ft.

The mesh gates are better suited for sheep, goats, and other small livestock. They're constructed from 1 1/4-in. by 1 1/4-in. T5 aluminum tubing with a 2-ft. high aluminum mesh skirt. Custom sizes are available, as well as horizontal sleeves.

Puckboard gates are also well-suited for smaller animals and make an excellent dog kennel gate. Each contains a 2-ft. high puckboard skirt (high-density polyethylene)—a soft plastic known for its impact resistance and durability.

Duralume's spindle gates feature the brand's trademark lightweight construction with vertical spindles. The gates work well

for sheep, goats, and other small animals. Unlike the other options, the standard height is 39 in.

Finally, the spiral gates add a subtle flare with spiraled spindles. They come at a standard 48-in. height (other sizes can be custom-ordered) and are best suited for small livestock. Horizontal sleeves are an option. It's an understated way to add some elegance to your setup.

Duralume also produces lightweight, maneuverable travel corrals. Each section can easily be loaded onto a horse trailer for setup at any location within minutes. Choose from a 6-bar (60 in.) or 7-bar (77 in.) height.

Likewise, the Duralume calf hutch system offers all the necessary components for group calf housing within one maneuverable solution. Group calf hutches make for high-quality intermediate calf housing and confinement without tying the calves. The trademark lightweight aluminum construction provides strength and reliability. Standard sizing is 12 ft. by 9 ft.

Pricing per fence piece depends on the style, sizing, and shipping location. Contact Duralume directly for a custom quote.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duralume, 6371 Schummer Line, Linwood, Ontario, Canada N0B 2A0 (ph 877-698-0201; [www.duralume.ca](http://www.duralume.ca)).

## Coupler Converts Fifth Wheel To Gooseneck

Gen-Y hitch has developed a unique coupling system allowing users to connect a fifth-wheel RV to a truck equipped with only a gooseneck ball. This eliminates the extra expense of a bulky fifth-wheel addition in the box.

Their snap-latch equipped coupler comes in different weight classes to handle multiple sizes of fifth-wheel trailers.

"There are many different couplers on the market these days," says Carl Borkholder, Gen-Y Hitch founder. "With the big fifth-wheel hitches in truck beds, it's hard to climb in and latch and unlatch couplers as there's very little room. Our design automatically latches when you drop it over the ball as well as unlatches from the outside of the truck bed by using a hook or rope."

The Gen-Y hitch coupler is also designed with torsion flex for improved suspension between truck and trailer. The feature allows the units to flex independently, unlike standard hard connections.

"Torsion flex creates a much smoother ride by isolating the trailer from the truck," Borkholder says. "In a standard hook-up, when the truck hits a bump, the energy is transferred to the trailer and vice versa."

Gen-Y hitch completes most of its sales directly to retail customers. They're currently



Gen-Y Hitch automatically latches when you drop it over the ball as well as unlatches from the outside of the truck bed by using a hook or rope.

incorporating their couplers into various RV manufacturer's equipment.

The couplers are produced in Indiana and sold through distribution partners across North America.

Prices range from \$1,400 to \$1,700 plus S&H depending on weight classifications.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gen-Y Hitch, 3400 West Market St., Nappanee, Ind. 46550 (ph 574-218-6363; [sales@genyhitch.com](mailto:sales@genyhitch.com); [www.genyhitch.com](http://www.genyhitch.com)).

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