

## Go High Tech With Small Square Balers

Upgrade your small square baler with advanced electronic control systems from BestBale. Sensors read what the baler is doing and display the information on a screen in the cab. The company also offers remote monitoring using Wi-Fi from a vehicle within range or via cell service.

Jared and Darren Herbst, Idaho hay producers looking to improve their hay bale quality and baling efficiency, developed and brought the systems to market.

"We put up small square bales for the commercial market, and the idea for these products came to us while we were baling," says Jared Herbst. "There's been

minimal progress in the small square bale industry in the past 40 years. Processes are so manual that it's hard to keep up with multiple balers in the field and keep them making quality hay. We implemented these automated systems to help eliminate human error and increase efficiency and operator safety."

The Herbsts introduced their product line in February 2024 and began shipping kits in June. They offer two sets of equipment, the Lite Kit and the Pro Series.

The Lite Kit includes a 4.3-in. TFT color display for cab installation. It displays key baling details, such as plunger speed, strokes per bale and bale count.

The Pro Series features a 7.1-in. TFT display that shows baler pressure readings, stroke counter, bale counter, plunger speed and flakes per bale. It also includes a pressure transducer and hydraulic valve for automatic and manual pressure adjustment. The scale system allows the operator to set a target bale weight and let the system control the rest.

With both sets of equipment, strokes per bale are determined by counting the plunges between each tie. For greater accuracy, BestBale offers a True Flake Counter, which records only when hay is actively pressed in the chamber.

Other add-ons for both systems include a scale system and Delmhorst moisture pads for viewing moisture readings on the monitor. The Scale System takes over 10,000 readings per second and displays both field



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bale averages and individual bale weights on the monitors.

You can zero the scale inside the cab or at the baler with the Pro Series. However, you must zero it back at the baler with the Lite Kit.

The Pro Series includes an automated Greaser System, a camera kit and a light kit. The Greaser System lets the operator set the preferred greasing interval and evenly greases every knottor zerk. An advanced cycle switch ensures that everything gets greased the same amount every time.

The Lite Kit starts at \$1,495, while the Pro Series starts at \$5,495. The BestBale scale kit (\$5,495) can be added to either kit.

While BestBale is working with a growing number of retailers, the systems can also be purchased directly from the company and installed by the customer. Herbst says installation takes one to three hours, depending on the system, and doesn't involve drilling, cutting or welding.

"Our products are built with the farmer in mind with ease of installation, ease of operations and durability built in," says Herbst. "We love that farmers can install our products themselves and begin operating without having to study a manual the day before."

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## Nifty Net Wrap Storage

Bundles of used bale net wrap make a great fire starter for James Grady, but storing them was a mess. Repurposing an old culvert solved the problem.

"Like others that use net wrap to light wood stove fires, I ended up with a pile of net wrap bundles in my barn," says Grady. "Over time, it grew into a large mess."

Grady's solution was to attach a 6-ft. section of 12-in. culvert to a rolling furniture dolly. He cut an arched hole in one end of the culvert and screwed a small piece of wood to the inside of that end. To secure it in a vertical position, he bolted a short length of angle iron to either end of the dolly and a 6-ft. length of angle iron to the culvert. He bolted them together with the end with the hole at the dolly.

"I place bundles of net wrap in the top of the culvert, and gravity pushes them down and into a tight stack," says Grady. "When I need to light a fire, I just pull one from the bottom, and the stack's weight automatically pushes the next one down."

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## Leaf Blower Add-On Doubles Performance

The Cyclone2X Air Booster from SouffleFort Inc. is an innovative leaf blower accessory that improves outdoor cleaning efficiency. The attachment doubles a leaf blower's air thrust power and reduces overall use time, saving energy and gasoline.

Weighing just over 1/2 lb., the Cyclone2X adds minimal bulk to a blower's end. It's designed to fit models with a round nozzle (2 to 4 in. in diameter). Compatible brands include Milwaukee, DeWalt, Ryobi, Toro, Ridgid and more. Leaf blowers with 50 cc/300 CFM and less provide the best performance with the Cyclone2X.

Installation is simple. Insert the Cyclone2X into the leaf blower's nozzle, ensuring it's clean and dry before doing so. Align the attachment along the blower's edge so it fits snugly and is properly centered. Finally, tighten the two belts until there's enough pressure to hold the Cyclone2X in place without damaging the blower's nozzle. Test the tension by turning on the blower at a low speed before using it as desired. While the attachment is maintenance-free, you'll get better performance by removing debris after each use.

Canadians can purchase the attachment from the company website and retailers like Rona, Husqvarna and Home Hardware. "We're fairly new to carrying the Cyclone2x but are blown away (pun intended) by the



**Attachment for blower doubles air thrust power.**

reaction to the product, especially online," says Atlantic Outdoor, a Canadian distributor. "It really is a great product, versatile and nearly universal, which leads many people to try it out. It does exactly what it advertises and works really well." Online customer reviews agree, with users raving about how easy the attachment is to use and how much extra power it provides.

SouffleFort Inc. offers a 30-day satisfaction guarantee on the Cyclone2X, currently priced at \$49.99 CAD (U.S. shipping is available for an additional fee).

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## Flexible Frame Stabilizes Sprayer

The StabuloPlus chassis in Agrifac self-propelled sprayers eliminates spray boom instability, even in booms as wide as 180 ft. The unique design also eliminates back-and-forth movement that occurs as rigid frames travel over rough ground. The chassis's enhanced stability affects more than just the boom. The smoother ride reduces stress and strain on the operator and machine components.

"The main characteristics of the StabuloPlus chassis are the central rod with the left and right beams pivoting over it," says Rens Albers, Agrifac. "When lifting the right front wheel, the left rear wheel isn't pushed down. It doesn't experience any additional downward force. This force is transmitted through the central rod, as the chassis is able to pivot over it."

The articulation provided by the chassis is enhanced by suspension of the frame at six points. Hydraulic shock absorbers and pneumatic suspension are placed at the ends of the central rod and each wheel.

The combination of the suspension system and the chassis design eliminates cross-distributed movements in the main frame and, more importantly, in the boom, which causes boom yaw.

Available in Europe for nearly 40 years,

the chassis was developed specifically for one of the earliest self-propelled sprayers. Since 2014, it's been available on Agrifac sprayers in Canada. In 2023, the Netherlands-based company opened a branch office in Seward, Neb.

Albers cites multiple additional features driving the adoption of its Condor series sprayers in the North American market. They include StrictSprayPlus for precise spray application, a boom width of up to 180 ft., and net tank volumes of up to 2,100 gal. Specialized sprayers include the Condor Mountain Master, with individual control of cylinders for even weight distribution and leveling on up to 20% slopes. Condor sprayers also offer up to 78 in. ground clearance and variable wheel spacing.

"We see a growing market for specialization in all aspects, particularly crop protection," says Albers. "Agrifac focuses exclusively on developing sprayers and aims to share this expertise with its customers in every way."

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