

Two-wheeled, self-contained bagger compresses two 3 by 4 by 8-ft. bales at a time and then shoves them into plastic bag.

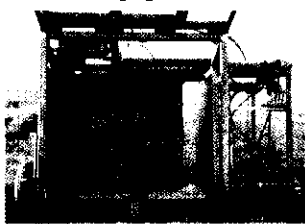
BALES RE-EXPAND INSIDE PLASTIC BAG

First-Of-Its-Kind Square Bale Bagger

"It makes the best high moisture silage you've ever seen," says inventor Darin Boone, Pasco, Wash., who, together with his father-in-law David Brubaker, built a first-of-its-kind big square bale bagger.

What makes the bagger unique is that it first compresses two big 8-ft. long square bales and then shoves them into the end of a long "sausage-type" silage bag where they re-expand to their original size, tightly sealing themselves into the air-tight bags.

The two-wheeled, self-contained bagger unit is designed to handle two 3 by 4 by 8-



The entire right side of bagger unit moves inward to compress bales.

ft. bales at a time. Power is supplied by a gas engine-driven hydraulic pump mounted on top of the rig. Boone uses a front-end loader to load bales two at a time into the bale chamber. Then he flips a lever to activate four cylinders that push one of the plate steel sidewalls into the bales. Once the bales have been compacted down to about 6 1/2 ft. in length, he flips another lever to activate the A-shaped push frame which pushes the bales out of the compaction chamber and into the bag where they re-expand tight against the sides of the bag.

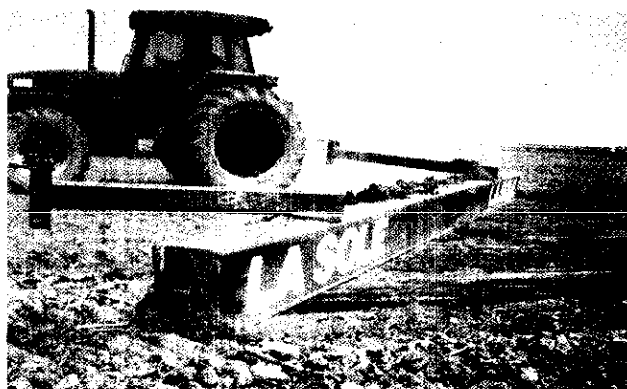
"We used it for the first time last fall and it worked great," says Boone. "As the bales re-expand they displace the air and force oxygen out. Before closing up the bag we use the suction side of a leaf blower to remove any excess air. The result is higher quality silage than you get with bagged haylage.

"We use it to make feed for our beef operation and also to sell to dairymen. We pull the unit behind a pickup. We normally bag bales at about 50 percent moisture and a weight of 1,800 to 1,900 lbs. We can get about 70 bales in a 150-ft. long bag. We leave the bales in the bag for at least 21 days to give them time to ferment properly. When we start taking bales out we don't have to tie the bag back up because the last bale serves as a seal.

"High moisture big bale silage is gaining new attention because of the problems some dairymen are having with haylage. Haylage is chopped fine and it's so high in protein that it often goes through cattle too fast, causing them to lose weight.

"Another advantage of making big bale silage is that it costs less than to make chopped haylage, and silage bales also have a longer shelf life than bagged haylage.

"We use a conventional 8-ft. dia. silage bag but fasten it to a square frame instead of a round one. The bag has two layers of



It takes two tractors to pull the new "Double Blade" tillage tool which does the job of a field cultivator but also leaves a level, even sctbedbed.

"Double Blade" Field Leveler

Here's a new concept in tillage tools that's about as simple - yet fast and effective - as it gets for leveling and finishing fields. Under many conditions, it'll do the work of a field cultivator or other soil finishing tillage tools, according to the manufacturer.

Called the "Double Blade" field leveler, it attracted a lot of attention at the recent SIMA Show in Montreal, Quebec.

Two tractors are used to pull the "Double Blade", which is actually a boxed beam made from heavy steel. It has specially designed bracing inside that is the key to its strength. The front and back sides are curved inward to roll soil forward. The sides can be reversed as the unit wears. (Life per face averages 5,000 acres). Two long pivoting hitch arms have three hitch points. Chains run from the 3-pt. top link on two tractors to the hitch arms. Tillage action of the unit can be made more or less aggressive depending on which of the three holes in the hitch arm is used.

"My father worked on the design for

more than 20 years. We brought the first unit to market last January and response has been tremendous" says Jocelyn Brouillard of Ferme de la Verdure Inc. "It breaks up heavy soils like no other tillage tool on the market, leaving a flat, perfect sctbedbed for planting."

Models are available ranging in size from 28 to 60 ft. wide. Blade size ranges from 16 by 20 in. to 20 by 26 in. Machines weigh from 3,600 to more than 7,300 lbs. Two 80 hp tractors are needed to pull a 28-ft. "Double Blade," while two 400 hp tractors are needed to pull the 60-ft. model.

Two experienced tractor drivers can quickly learn the lead-follow driving technique needed to pull and turn with the unit, says Brouillard, noting that it'll cover 5 to 12 acres per hour.

Starts at \$5,000 (Canadian). Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ferme de la Verdure Inc., 138, 4 rang sud, Saint-Marcel, Quebec, Canada JOH 1T0 (fax inquiries to 514 794-2548).

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Kit Turns Tractors Into High-Clearance Rigs

Here's a just-introduced way to turn an ordinary small tractor into a high-clearance rig for spraying and cultivating tall-growing crops.

"We've been on the road with our first converted tractor this spring and response has been fantastic from corn and soybean farmers and specialty crop growers," says Everitt Hunley of Hunley Sales & Service, an Austin, Ind., company that's well-known for its business of repowering older model tractors with new engines.

Now, Hunley has developed a system to increase ground clearance on smaller model tractors. He bolts gear boxes on the tractor's rear axle housings. Using gear boxes - instead of chain drives as are used on most hi-boy rigs - increases reliability and permits the design to be used on bigger tractors, up to 95 hp, Hunley notes.

Front axles are raised by installing new drop tubes made of heavy-wall tubing, which provide at least 48 in. ground clear-

ance under the front axle. A new larger spindle shaft attaches to the drop tube and steering linkage.

The prototype is fitted with 15.5 by 38-in. rear tires. Larger rear and front tires can be used to raise ground clearance up to 54 in. using standard gear boxes, Hunley notes. He plans to build optional gear boxes that will increase ground clearance. Wheelbase on the first converted tractor - a Massey 383 73 hp - was lengthened to 105 in. for stability by lengthening and reinforcing the tractor's frame with 3/4-in. thick steel.

Belly mounted spray tanks are available, along with a variety of other equipment. Available for MF 283, 383, and 390T tractors. Hunley will custom-build kits for most other brands. Starts at \$16,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hunley Sales & Service Inc., 1162 W Boone Rd., Austin, Ind. 47102 (ph 812 794-4714 or 2771).

plastic. As the bales begin to re-expand inside the bag they catch the inner layer of plastic and pull it along. For the first four to six bales we raise the rig's wheels until it sits on the ground. After that we lower the wheels so that the machine rolls forward on its own as it pushes the bales into the bag."

A 25 hp Kohler gas engine powers a 16-gal. hydraulic pump. The compactor plate

uses four 4 by 24-in. cylinders controlled by a flow divider that runs them all at the same speed. The push frame is operated by two 4-in. dia., 60-in. long cylinders. A 4 by 24-in. cylinder opens or closes the push frame and another cylinder latches it shut.

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