

FARM SHOW

For everyone in agriculture interested in latest new products and ideas.

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Joe Laczko put together this self-propelled round baler by stripping down a Massey 510 combine and mounting a baler on back. He amazed friends and neighbors by building the round baler himself entirely from scratch.

SELF-PROPELLED ROUND BALER HAS A 10-FT. WIDE HAY PICKUP

“Built From Scratch” Baler Mounts On Old Combine

By Jim Houtsma, Associate Editor

“It’s got a 10-ft. wide pickup on front so it picks up every last bit of hay, even when you go around corners, unlike any pull-type baler I’ve ever used,” says Joe Laczko about a self-propelled round baler he built last year out of an old combine.

What’s amazing about the machine is that Laczko built the round baler itself - which mounts on the back of the stripped-down combine frame - entirely from scratch.

A neighbor, Joe Nagy, helped test the home-built baler against a Massey 1660 pull-type baler. “It made a more dense, evenly distributed bale than the Massey in a side-by-side field test,” says Nagy, who used the machine to make 60 1,200 to 1,400-lb. bales last season. “Not having

to hook it up to a tractor saves a lot of time. And it outperforms any baler I’ve ever used,” he says.

Laczko, of St. Brieux, Sask., grows 300 acres of alfalfa hay. He cuts it with a 20-ft. International swather and bales it as soon as it’s dry enough.

“I wanted a self-propelled baler mainly for the convenience and I wanted a variable speed transmission, which allows me to slow down in heavy hay and speed up in lighter hay. But I couldn’t justify spending \$25,000 or more for a commercial model,” Laczko explains. “I also wanted a baler that would pick up 100% of my hay so I mounted a 10-ft. wide Melroe pickup on front. Most balers have only a 5-ft.

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