

"We're generally satisfied with our 1989 **New Holland 855** baler with bale command. I like the large capacity and it's easy to operate. On the negative side, the bale kicker could be improved and it needs better quality air bags," says Orval Smith, Bluffton, Alberta.

• Helmut Luethi, Breton, Alberta, says his 1988 **Hesston 560** round baler is a "worse buy". "The pickup is too far underneath and doesn't float. You can't see when it starts to plug up and when you go from hard ground to soft ground, it digs in. And when you go from soft to hard ground, you miss hay. It's also hard to start a new bale. Hydraulics are noisy and one cylinder has needed a new O-ring every year. The clutch burned out because you can't see early enough when the machine plugs up. Another problem is that far too much chaff can build up on the frame of baler and is a fire hazard."

• Mike Rogers, Junction City, Kan., owns a **New Holland 845** baler built in the early 1970's that makes 4 1/2 by 4 1/2-ft. bales. "It's a fairly simple machine. For example, it's got a mechanical tailgate latch instead of hydraulic so there's less to go wrong. Bales usually eject far enough back to close the tailgate without moving the baler. On the downside, it takes a lot of time to oil the chains and it doesn't start bales in dry, short hay very well. I modified the baler by running a plastic pipe from the twine box to the front of the baler for the twine to run through. Before I did that, twine would catch on brush or tall weeds in transport and unroll all the twine. I also plan to add an automatic oiler for the top chains of the type that was featured in a recent **FARM SHOW** article (Vol. 16, No. 4)."

• "I don't own a round baler but I hire a neighbor with a **Deere 535** and it makes good tight bales. I haul them on a trailer and sometimes I can't stab into them with my spear because they're so tight. He also bales cornstalks for me and they're tight, too. One modification he made was to add a stalkchopper unit from **Heartland Mfg.**, Dyersville, Iowa, on the front of the baler so he can chop the stalks as they enter the baler," says Fred Abels, Holland, Iowa.

• "I installed wider belts, made belt dividers out of solid shaft to replace the pipe dividers, and also installed a light at the top of the inside of the bale chamber to illuminate the bale at night. The light makes it easier to keep bales even," says Mark Evans, Lemmon, S. Dak., about his "best buy" 1977 **Vermeer 605D** round baler.

• Rocky Schreurs, Baltic, S.Dak., is pleased with his 1992 **Case-IH 8650** round baler. "It's easy to operate and can handle big windrows of grass. It produces bales with a soft core so hay dries out some if it's a little tough when you bale. The only problem is that it doesn't do a good job baling straw."

• Ray Bjork, Ocheyedon, Iowa, owns a **Vermeer 605 Super J**. "It generally works well and repairs have been minimal but I've had a few problems. I had trouble with a cushion valve in the hydraulic twine tie but Vermeer replaced it even though the warranty had expired. Another problem is that the pickup teeth bend when baling cornstalks. I wish the teeth were about 300 percent stronger. Also, the twine tie arms freeze up when baling in below freezing temperatures. One modification I made was to add belt indicators to help keep small bales uniform and to make starting bales easier. Works good."

• "My **New Holland 855** round baler is my best buy. I do custom work and put up

6,000 bales a year with little down time. When the company quit making this model they threw away a good machine. Belt balers will not bale corn fodder like this web-type baler will," says Paul Martin, Ephrata, Penn.

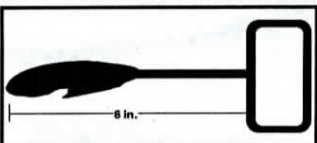
• Ernest Hannis, Paradise Hill, Sask., likes his 1991 **Fiat-Hesston** large round baler. "It works good but needs heavier floor belts to prevent stretching. The company installed curved tines to hold back hay while starting a bale but they don't work right. They cause a buildup of chaff between the floor belts which creates a fire hazard."

• "We made 30,000 bales a year with our 1983 **Deere 336** square baler with few problems until we bought our **Deere 530** round baler in 1987, which is the easiest-to-use baler we've ever operated. Does a good job on tough straw. We'd like to add a second twine tie arm and a twine box," says Jeffrey Miller, Markerville, Alberta. "We've used a Farmhand bale accumulator behind our 336 square baler for more than 20 years and it still works great for us. It bunches up 8 bales at a time. It's convenient - we don't touch the bales until we put them in a mix mill."

• Donald Selk, Dysart, Iowa, likes his **OMC 590** baler. "I enlarged the twine box from 3 to 6 bales of twine since I do some custom work. It lets me carry enough for different jobs and I can carry both plastic and sisal, and use whichever one the customer wants. I also built a bale bumper for the back of the baler to kick the bale backwards. Works great."

"I haul bales on an 8 by 16-ft. bale skid. I drive alongside the bale and tip it onto the skid by hand, drive to the barn, and then tip them off by hand."

"I made this 8-in. long tool out of 3/8-in. dia. rod for pushing the loose end of the twine into the bale. I flattened out one end



and ground it to a point with a notch on the side and shaped a handle on the other end. I pull the loose end of the twine tight, slip it into the notch, and then push it into the bale."

Square Balers

• "Our **Deutz 490** small square baler works well but has a belt-type bale thrower that can't compare to **Deere's** bale kicker," says David S. McKean, Stillwater, Minn.

• "We're generally satisfied with our **Deere 336** square baler with ejector but the knotters seem to need an excessive amount of attention and lubrication for it to work properly. It also needs a stronger rear tongue for wagon hookup," says David Meyer, West Union, Iowa.

• "I've baled 71,990 bales with my 1981 **Deere 336** square baler with few problems," says Ernest Hamilton, Schoolcraft, Mich. "I have had trouble with springs. The eyes keep breaking off. I installed a bale spear on the plunger that makes a hole through the center of the bale so air can pass through. It helps dry high-moisture hay. I also installed a moisture tester that monitors hay moisture as you bale (Moisture Technology, Inc., P.O. Box 796, Parowan, Utah 84761). To retrieve bales, I use a **New Holland Stackliner 1010** automatic bale wagon. After some modification, we're



Baler-Towed Trailer Dumps Two Round Bales Together

"It cuts the time I spend loading round bales onto my truck in half and saves wear and tear on my tractor and loader," says Frank Urlacher, Dickinson, N. Dak., who built a trailer that he pulls behind his round baler that allows him to dump two 4 by 5-ft. bales off in pairs.

Urlacher made the 6-ft. wide, 8-ft. long trailer out of 2-in. dia. oil well pipe and mounted it on the wheels and axle of an old drill transport trailer. The trailer slants to the rear and is only 3 in. off the ground at the back. The first bale ejected rolls to the back of the trailer where a steel "guard" keeps it from falling off. A 3 by 10-in. hydraulic cylinder raises the center section of the trailer up to dump the first bale while the second bale is being tied and then the second bale is dumped.

"The end gate on my **International 3450** round baler is designed to open straight up so it doesn't interfere with the trailer. I think the same idea would work on big 5 by 6-ft. bales, but the trailer would have to be mounted farther back so that the end gate wouldn't hit it."

"The steel guard at the back of the trailer is sloped at a 45° angle so that when I tip the floor up, the guard is level with the ground."

"One advantage of the trailer is that if I'm baling in a wet area of the field I can haul two bales to dry ground at once."

Urlacher spent \$350 to build the trailer. Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Frank Urlacher, 736 20th St. West, Dickinson, N. Dak. 58601 (ph 701 225-3207).

satisfied with it."

• Curt Richards, Rolling Hills, Alberta, likes his **Deere 466** square baler. "It's fitted with a moisture meter that gives on the go readings (made by **Agrofarm** and sold by **Dani Farm Supply**, Red Deer, Alberta). This year I plan to use the moisture meter together with hay preservative in low or wet spots so I can bale a little earlier."

"This past winter I built a small bale accumulator to pull behind the baler that dumps 21 bales together. Then I pick up the stacks with a front-end loader. I won't know how it works till I get out this year. The 466 baler is modified so the tractor can straddle the windrow and it's also fitted with self-contained hydraulics to power the bale accumulator."

• "We made a set-back axle to place more weight on the tractor drawbar. It makes the entire machine more stable," says Wayne Luepke, Courtland, Minn., about his 1975 **Deere 24T** square baler. "It's so reliable

uniform bales. Bale density varies depending on whether the windrow is light or heavy. Another problem is that the twine bales do not end at the same time. One side is always used up first and it's always the same side."

• "I installed fittings and a hose on the plunger head grease fitting so I can grease it more easily. **Deere** should have set it up this way at the factory," says Charlie Rosselot, Worden, Mont., who's otherwise pleased with his 1978 **Deere 346** square baler. "Makes good solid bales that consistently weigh 60 to 65 lbs."

• "When my Dad was negotiating the purchase of our late 1970's **IH 440** baler, he and the dealer got to within \$100 of each other so the dealer flipped a coin. My Dad lost the toss but he got a real good baler. Makes consistent size bales. We've replaced the needles, replaced a few bearings, and overhauled the pickup. We're considering mounting a bale ventilator on the plunger and a proportioner for buffered acid preservatives," says Nick Barrett, Metcalf, Ill.

• "Our 1970 **Massey Ferguson 12** small square baler hasn't missed a knot yet. If a bale doesn't get tied, we know we've run out of wire. The only repairs it's needed is shear bolts broken when hay is tough and the replacement of one tire," says Francis Myers, Hillsboro, Ill.

• David Davis, Milner, British Columbia, likes his **New Holland 315** square baler. "It makes good uniform bales. We added hydraulic tension and a **New Holland** quar-

"I wish it were easier to reach the grease fittings on the plunger."

that if it misses tying a bale, chances are something's wrong with the twine."

• George Schellhaas, Plymouth, Wis., owns a 1984 **New Holland 311** square baler. "It's reliable and well-made. I wish it were easier to reach the grease fittings on the plunger. Also, I wish it made more

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