



Big Bale Feeder Eliminates Wasted Hay

"My neighbor built this bale feeder for me four years ago and it's really saved a lot of hay that would otherwise have gone to waste," says dairyman Harlan Phillips about the heavy-duty covered bale feeder built by his neighbor, Merlin Wing.

The feeder is 7 ft. by 8 ft. with a frame made out of 1/8-in. square tubing and panels made out of 11-ga. plate.

Key to success of the feeder are the V-shaped openings, which taper from 5 1/2 in. at the bottom to 15 1/2 in. on top. The design discourages cattle from pulling hay out of the feeder.

The rectangular feeder has 44 in.-high sides and a semi-circular 8-ft. dia., 4-ft. high roof made of rolled square tubing covered by metal siding.

"You'll lose at least 30% of a big round bale in a standard hay ring with no covering," says Phillips. "With this feeder, the most you'll lose to cattle or the elements will be 10%."

Other features of Wing's bale feeder include a gate in back that allows you to load the feeder with any bale handling equipment, a flip-up section on the bottom of the gate that allows you to load bales into the feeder even if there is a manure build-up, and skids that allow you to move the feeder easily.

Wing has made six of the feeders for neighbors.

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Low-Profile, 1,000-Gal. Fertilizer Cart

When Dale Thiel decided to apply liquid fertilizer in wheat rows at planting, he found his two main options limiting.

Putting individual tanks on each of his five 7-ft. Versatile 2000 drills would only add to the rig's considerable weight. It would also limit the amount of fertilizer he could carry.

He could have bought a commercial pull-between fertilizer cart but the ones he looked at would have obstructed his view of the drills.

"I wanted something that would ride as low to the ground as possible so I could keep an eye on the drills but with enough capacity to permit me to plant 100 acres without stopping to refill," says the Levant, Kan., farmer.

So he borrowed a few ideas from a couple of commercial pull-between carts, blended them with some of his own, and built a 1,000-gal. low-riding cart that suits his needs perfectly.

"I built it last spring for \$3,200, instead of the \$10,000 one of the commercial units would have cost," Thiel says. "The drills trail behind it as solid as if they were hooked to a locomotive. There's absolutely no sway on the road like there was before. I pull the rig with a Case 2470 4-

WD and I can actually turn shorter now than I could without the in-between tank."

The heart of Thiel's cart is an underslung front axle off an old Allis-Chalmers L2 combine. It provides 14 in. of clearance from the ground to the cart's main frame.

The main frame is cross-shaped, 15 ft. long, and made out of 7-in. square steel tubing running through the combine axle. It's fitted with used 30.5 by 32-in. combine tires. Width of the cart from the outside of the tires is 12 1/2 ft.

A commercial tank mounts on a subframe made of 4-in. square tubing that clamps to the main frame. Overall height of the rig at the top of the tank is 6 1/2 ft.

Two rear-mounted Shurflo electric pumps deliver 10-34-0 fertilizer through 3/4-in. dia. plastic tubing from the tank to the manifolds mounted on each drill. Plastic 1/4-in. dia. tubing delivers fertilizer from the manifolds to each opener where it's applied 1 to 1 1/2-in. behind the seed.

For convenience and safety, a 30-gal. fresh water rinse tank mounts on front of the cart.

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Anhydrous Applicator Seals Slot, Stops Sway

"The 3-pt. hitch-mounted 11-knife anhydrous rig we used before had a tendency to sway from side-to-side on hard ground, sometimes putting anhydrous where we didn't want it and none where we really needed it," says Randy Hagan who decided to build his own applicator out of a Deere planter.

The rig stopped the sway problem, says the Waverly, Ky., farmer who uses it for pre-plant applications of anhydrous on corn. "What's more it seals the furrow as good or better than any commercial rig I've ever used," Hagan says.

He stripped the row units off a Deere 7000 12-row (30-in.) planter and used them on a 24-row (15-in.) planter he built out of another 7000.

The next step was to cut the frame into three sections - a 15-ft. middle section and two 8-ft. end sections - and to remove the planter markers. Both wings of the planter, which fold hydraulically for transport, were extended 15 in. with 7-in. square tubing to make a 13-row (30-in.) applicator.

The applicator uses DMI cultivator shanks fitted with Ace knives. Since the DMI shanks were designed for a 4-in. square tool bar, Hagan had to make new mounting brackets that would fit the applicator's 7-in. square frame. He used 1/2 in. thick flat plate.

Then he mounted a 4-in. square bar in front of the main tool bar so DMI no-till 20-in. dia. straight coulters could be fitted



to the rig.

Sealer wheels off of a Tye grain drill mount behind knives to close the furrow.

A MicroTrac monitor mounted on the applicator controls flow of anhydrous from the tank through the main supply hose to each knife.

Hagan built a 3-ft. long hitch out of channel iron for the back of the applicator. It allows him to hitch a 4,000-lb. capacity wagon to the applicator.

He also built a height-adjustable hitch for the front of the rig, which he pulls with either a Deere 8630 4-WD or Deere 4850 2-WD tractor. The hitch allows him to put additional downpressure on sealer wheels in rough conditions.

Hagan also pulls a Kasco leveling bar behind the anhydrous rig to level ground and to ensure furrows are entirely closed.

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Combine Attachments Push Stalks Away From Wheels

"We'd have corn and bean stalks run down like crazy if we didn't use them," says Bill Broaddus about crop-saving attachments he makes that nudge corn and soybeans away from his combine's big dual wheels.

The Raymond, Ill., ridge tiller first used the wing-shaped stalk movers on his Deere 7200 combine. When he traded for a Deere 9600 a couple of years ago, he had to make new mounting brackets.

Four ft. long wings made of 2 1/2 by 1/2-in. steel plate attach to a U-shaped frame, made out of 4 by 4-in. tubing, that clamps to the drive axle. Wings are angled inward to gently push stalks and stems out of the way.

Broaddus made the attachment so height of wings could be adjusted. But he's found 12 to 14 in. off the ground is the ideal height.

In the future, Broaddus plans to add "dual cleaners" to the brackets that hold his stalk movers. They'll consist of a piece of 3/4-in. thick plate steel about 10 in. wide to run between the duals and keep them free



from mud and corn stalks during a wet harvest.

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