Bale slicer automatically cuts big bales into long-stemmed chunks using a hydraulic-powered guillotine-type knife.

NO LEAF LOSS, LESS POWER REQUIRED

New "Hay Jaw" Slices Big Bales Into Chunks

"It's cheaper to run and better for cattle," say manufacturers of the new Hay Jaw, a first-of-its-kind bale slicer that automatically cuts big bales into long-stemmed chunks using a hydraulic-powered guillotine-type knife that the company says doesn't grind leaves into dust like big tub grinders.

In addition to preventing protein loss, the Hay Jaw requires less power to operate. A 40 hp. tractor will slice up 20 to 30 tons of hay per hour. Length of cut can be adjusted from 1 in. to 1 ft.

It consists of a large square chamber open on either side. Bales are loaded into one side with a loader and then a push bar feeds the bale to the other side where a hydraulic-controlled 9-ft. wide knife automatically cuts the bales into the desired length chunks. There's one large cylinder on either side that operates the knife and a hydraulic cylinder that operates the push bar. The heavy-built machine - it weighs 7,200 lbs. - rides on a 2-wheel chassis. It will pile up as much as 15 tons of hay at a time before you have to move it to a new spot or remove the sliced-up hay.

The knife has a straight-across, smooth blade which slices through any type of hay or straw. When cutting through particularly tough material, it's designed so that one side or the other will pull downward, creating a slicing action that cuts through the bale. The key to this slicing motion of the knife is that the knife arms are mounted on rotating mounts that allow each side to pivot independently.

The knife should be sharpened about every 3,000 tons. It can be used with both round and square big bales.

"We've had tremendous response from farmers. It saves the loss of hay that turns to dust in grinders and blows away and produces higher-quality feed. It's a much lower maintenance machine than a grinder and produces long stem hay, which is what animal nutritionists are recommending," says company representative Jesse Patterson.

Sells for $13,600. A model without the automatic length of cut feature sells for $11,900.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A & P Manufacturing Co., Inc., 1000 Airport Road, Stephenville, Tex. 76401 (ph 800 841-2024 or 817 965-6642).

They Dry Grain In Their Farm Truck

"It lets us dry high-moisture grain that our aeration bins can't handle. Speeds up harvest while saving the cost of a batch dryer," says Murray McNabb, Girvin, Sask., who uses a propane heater, fan, and inlet tube to dry grain right in the 20-ft. box on his tandem-axle truck.

McNabb, who farms with his father Carman, cuts aeration bin flooring to the size of the box and then sets it on top of the pallets stacked 2-high in the bottom of the 600-bu. truck box. A big 10 hp fan is positioned out the back of the box on a pile of pallets. A propane heater mounts in front of the intake. A plastic tarp sewn together to form an inlet tube runs from fan to bottom of box. Hot, moist air exits the top of the box.

McNabb has used the truck dryer to dry about 10,000 bu. of grain over the last five years. "It allows us to harvest sloughs or wet spots without having to wait for the grain to dry down. We can combine wet grain early in the morning or harvest it the night before and use the truck to dry it the next morning.

"The 300,000 btu propane heater operates at 125 to 130 degrees and can dry about one point of moisture per hour. The length of drying time depends on the moisture content. We can dry 500 bu. of 22% moisture grain down to 13.5% in eight hours or so. That includes cooling the grain down and dumping it into a bin auger. A batch dryer can dry grain about twice as fast but sells for $10,000 to $14,000 and also requires use of a tractor. We spent only about $2,400 for the aeration bin flooring, fan, heater, and tarp. It costs about 4 cents per bu. to dry grain in the truck.

Bale is "kicked" onto pipe frame directly behind baler tailgate.

TWO-WHEEL UNIT WEIGHS BALE RIGHT AFTER IT'S MADE

Tag-Along Scale Weighs Round Bales On-The-Go

Australian farmer-inventor Bruce Reynolds thinks his new tag-along bale scale for big round balers will become standard equipment because, he says, it lets you keep track of how your baler is performing.

Weighing bales "on the go" lets you know if bales are too heavy or too light - which might indicate a problem with the machine - and also lets you know how much hay a particular pasture is producing.

"If bales are too light, they may 'sag' and water infiltration will be higher resulting in lower quality hay. If bales are two heavy, they may be too compacted and spoilage will occur. This scale is the only practical way to monitor baler performance as you go," says Reynolds.

His spring-loaded weigher is made out of steel tubing and rides on two small wheels directly behind the baler tailgate. There's an upside down leaf spring at the front of the platform that "kicks" the bale backwards onto a pipe frame. An H-beam load cell attaches to the pipe frame. It weighs the bale and sends the weight to a monitor on the tractor. A hydraulic cylinder tips the bale onto the ground after it's weighed.

A pair of air shocks are used to adjust the height of the scale platform up and down to adapt to different size balers. The shocks also allow the two-wheel weigher to roll smoothly over uneven ground.

The weigh monitor on the tractor keeps a running total and will also keep separate totals on different fields so field performance can be rated. Reynolds says one advantage of the system is that he can now sell bales based on total tonnage rather than on a per bale basis. He's negotiating with a baler manufacturer to produce the scale.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Reynolds, Fullerton Station, Laggan, N.S.W. 2583 Australia (ph 048 342-101; fax 048 342-120).

McNabb uses propane heater, fan, and inlet tube to dry grain in tandem-axle truck.

"The grain dries faster at the bottom of the box than at the top, so we use a bin probe to monitor moisture content. If the grain is dry on the bottom half of the box but still wet on top, we can mix it up to get an average moisture content of 13.5%."

McNabb screwed a 2-in. wide strip of tin around edge of truck box floor and caulked it to keep air from leaking out of box.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Murray McNabb, Box 42, Girvin, Sask. Canada S0G 1X0 (ph 306 567-4294).