



Each filled bag of chopped silage weighs from 1,500 to 2,000 lbs.

"GREAT FOR SMALLER OPERATORS"

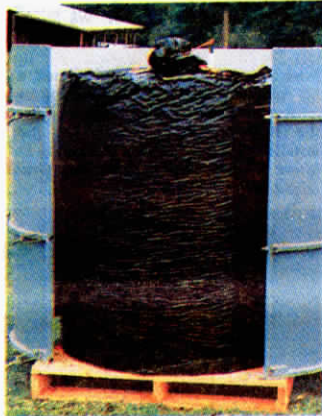
Chopped Silage Stored In Round Bale Bags

"Works great for farmers who don't have a big herd to feed. There's no spoilage and cattle love it," says John Vardanega, Warren, Oregon, who stores chopped silage - made from corn, alfalfa, oats or even barley - in round bale bags.

"We built a round form with hinges and locks that's just the size of a bag and 60 in. high, which we set on a wooden pallet. We inflate the bag with air using a small squirrel cage fan connected to a short piece of pipe before we put it into the form. Blowing the bag up first prevents any wrinkles from forming. The excess is folded down over the sides of the form.

"We chop into a truck with a moveable endgate, introducing a preservative at the chopper. The truck empties into a short conveyor which dumps into the bag. One person feeds the conveyor and one distributes the chop as it enters the bag and packs it down by walking around on it. When the bag is heaped full, the top of the bag is gathered up around a short piece of 1 1/4-in. plastic pipe and tied with plastic twine. Then we connect a shop vacuum to the pipe and suck out all the air we can, which collapses the bag and tightly compresses the silage. The final step is to seal the bag by tightening up the first twine string with a small hand tool we built for the purpose, folding over the excess plastic, and tying it again.

"Using a pallet fork we built for our tractor 3-pt., we move the pallet and bag



Bags are placed into this round form, equipped with hinges and lock, for filling, and for inflating with air.

into storage and remove the form. It takes 2 to 3 weeks for the silage to 'cure'. Each filled bag weighs between 1,500 and 2,000 lbs.

"This method produces an excellent feed and is a great way to make use of crops that might otherwise go to waste because of poor weather conditions."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John & Gene Vardanega, Cedar Springs Farm, 55749 Hazen Road, Warren, Ore. 97053 (ph 503 397-3679).



One person feeds conveyor and another walks on material inside of bag to pack it down.



Bale turns as plastic (26.5 in. wide) is wrapped across face of bale, plus about 6 in. of overlap on each end.

RIGHT AT \$1 PER BALE

New Low-Cost Way To Plastic Wrap Big Bales

You'll like the price tag on the just-introduced new spin-on method of wrapping big round bales in plastic.

Developed by the Bale-Bonnett Co., of Bloomsdale, Mo., it provides all-weather protection with cling-type plastic (it resembles Saran-Wrap) for a materials' cost of right at \$1 per bale. "That's about one-third the cost of plastic sleeves or machine-wrap systems already on the market," notes Alan Schaefer, president of Bale-Bonnett and inventor-manufacturer of the new bale-wrapping system.

The "business end" of his new-style wrapper is a pointed spear (60 in. long and 2-1/2 in. in dia.) which is powered by a hydraulic motor and has a spiral-shaped rod welded to its outer surface which turns the pointed spear into a giant screw. "It rotates and screws its way into the bale in a straight line and doesn't veer off the side, as often happens with plain pointed spears," notes Schaefer. "This spiraling on the spear, along with metal fingers welded to the spinner plate, allow the spinner-spear assembly to turn the bale as it's being wrapped with a hand-held roll of cling-stretch plastic."

The 100 ga. stretch plastic (white over black with the white side out) comes in rolls 26.5 in. wide. "You start on one side with about 6 in. of overlap, then let the plastic wrap across to the other side as the bale turns," according to Schaefer. "It only takes about 15 or 20 seconds to wrap

a bale. The beauty of this system is that you can let the plastic overlap about 6 in. on each end. This overlap, which self-stretches tight against the bale ends, keeps water from seeping in along the bottom, as generally happens when you cover just the face of the bale with plastic."

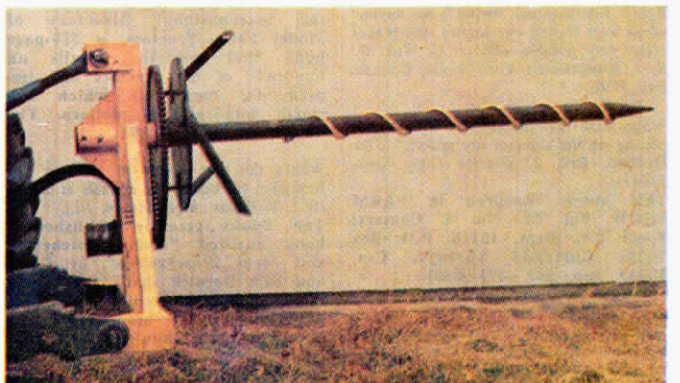
"The special cling-stretch plastic sticks to itself and doesn't have to be tied or glued to keep it from unwrapping in the wind, or when bales are handled and moved. Also, the plastic is durable and not easily punctured by hay stems. Two persons are required to do the wrapping - one on the tractor and one on the ground to handle the plastic," notes Schaefer.

He adds that "one size fits all" with his new bale-wrapping machine and its method of hand-applying 26.5-in. wide plastic to any and all big round bales, regardless of size or shape.

The spear-spinner assembly, complete with hydraulic motor, sells for \$900. During the off-season, it can be used to transport, and to unroll and feed bales.

"We're getting a lot of interest from managers of co-ops who are thinking about buying a machine and renting it out to area farmers and ranchers," Schaefer told FARM SHOW.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bale-Bonnet Co., Box A, Bloomsdale, Mo. 63627 (ph toll free 800 231-4242 or, in Missouri, 314 483-2552).



Rotating spear with spirals "screws" its way into bale.