



Kids have fun finding their way through maze, made from 3,000 bales stacked 5 high.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY IN AND ONE WAY OUT

Straw Bale Maze Great Fun For Kids

A 100-ft. sq. "straw bale maze", made from 3,000 bales stacked five high, provides a lot of fun for kids and adults alike when they visit the farm of Terry Holsapple, Greenup, Ill.

Holsapple got the idea for his "bale maze" about 8 years ago at a fruit and vegetable sellers conference. He sets up the maze each fall to coincide with an annual "U-Pick" Pumpkin Patch festival on his farm.

"Everyone from 3-year-olds up to 90-year-olds likes it because it's a challenge. There's only one way in and one way out. The passages can be very confusing because you can't see over the top of the bales. It's pure luck if you get out in five minutes - some people spend an hour or more. Most of the passages are wide enough for only one person at a time, but in some places two people can pass each other.

"We make the maze bigger every year. Last year 10,000 people went through it. Some drive from 60 miles away and come back three or four times. On days when

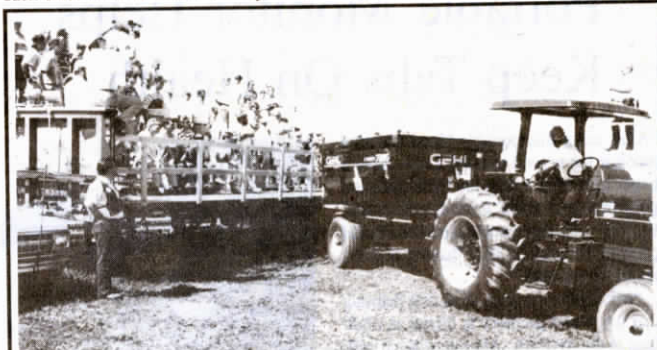
there's a lot of people we have a watchman walk on top of the bales to make sure that no one tries to climb over the bales and knock them down. Wooden planks on top of the bales make it easier to walk.

"There are 12 and 20-ft. sq. courtyards scattered throughout the maze where people can congregate. Each courtyard has five exits, but only one leads all the way to the end of the maze. You have to keep trying until you find the right exit."

Holsapple builds the maze with the help of friends and family members. He first draws lines for the passageways on the ground, then lays out the bottom row of bales. "Once the first row of bales is laid out we can tell where to open or close the passageways," explains Holsapple.

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TMR Mixer "Showdown"

Farmers at the Wisconsin Farm Progress Days in July got to see a "showdown" demonstration between 15 different brands of mobile TMR (Total Mixed Ration) mixers. A raised platform made it easy to watch mixers perform. Each company had 10 minutes to make its pitch and mix up a variety of feed materials, including haylage, rolled corn, cottonseed, and two small square bales. Afterward, a sample of the finished product was loaded out from each mixer for farmers to inspect. "It was a great way to compare different equipment designs, mix time, horsepower requirements, unloading ability and so on," says Dick Hauser, of Neptune Enterprises, Richland Center, Wis., who had the idea for the mixer showdown. Hauser distributes the Farm Aid mixer. "I think this kind of friendly competition would work with other types of equipment, too," Hauser notes.

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Sommerfeld repowered his Massey Harris 44 tractor with a 350 cu. in. V-8 gas engine out of a Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup.

PARADE TRACTOR REPOWERED WITH 300 HP CHEVROLET V-8 GAS ENGINE

He "Souped Up" His Old Massey Harris 44 Tractor

"It's a lot of fun to drive in parades. People always want me to gun the engine and pop wheelies," says Larry Sommerfeld, Moose Jaw, Sask., who mounted a 350 cu. in. Chevrolet V-8 gas engine in his old Massey Harris 44 tractor.

Sommerfeld paid \$600 for the 300 hp engine at a salvage yard. He made new engine mounting brackets and installed a new drive shaft, as well as a heavy duty clutch, pressure plate, and chrome rocker panels. He added power steering by using the power steering pump that came with the engine. The steering box is off a 1963 Oldsmobile and the steering linkage is off a 1976 Pontiac, but the steering column is original. He mounted new 14 by 30 tires in back. He also painted the tractor bright red with yellow wheel rims and put four black header pipes on each side of the engine in place of a muffler.

"It looks like a dragster and always draws a crowd," says Sommerfeld, who retired from his job as an aeronautical engineering mechanic in the Canadian Air Force and now builds dragsters and hot rod tractors. He also feeds out about 200 beef cattle. "It has great power steering - I can turn the

steering wheel with one finger. The 350 cu. in. engine came out of a Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup and was almost new when I bought it. The tractor originally had a 35 hp 4-cyl. engine and was underpowered for the work I did. I used it to pull a 12-ft. disker. Now I can pull an 18-ft. disker full of seed in third gear with no problems.

"With the new lugged rear tires I run out of power before I ever spin out. I used small front tires because I wanted to make the tractor look more like a dragster. However, they're so light that the front end comes up whenever I let out the clutch. I plan to install a roll bar and put a wheelie bar on the hitch.

"The tractor still has its original 5-speed transmission. I've never had the throttle wide open in fifth gear, but I'm sure it would go 40 mph. However, with the lugged rear tires it rides so rough that I'd never go that fast. I plan to install a bucket seat to make the ride more comfortable."

Sommerfeld spent a total of \$1,500 to repower the tractor.

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