Haul Big Bales With Your Pickup

A new big bale stabber that mounts in his pickup makes retrieving bales quicker and easier for inventor Gary Rajek. It mounts on a gooseneck ball hitch in the pickup bed and is operated by a hydraulic power unit that runs off the pickup battery.

"A key feature is an elevated pivot point which lets the hydraulic cylinder hook to the stabber below the pivot. This lets the cylinder push the bale up easily. It's important because the elevated pivot principle requires less power demand," Gary told FARM SHOW.

He notes that the power unit has a very low amp drain on the battery. "It uses just 60 amps to develop 3/4 hp, as opposed to other units that take 300 to 400 amps. It takes about 25 seconds to lift a bale. I've lifted bales weighing as much as 2,200 lbs."

Another feature of the new-style stabber is that it raises the bale a full 90° so the bottom of the bale is even with the top of the pickup sides. "This keeps tail lights and turn signals visible for highway use — which other bale stabbers I've seen aren't able to do. Raising the bales has posed no stability problems with the pickup," says Rajek.

"Versatility is another benefit. The bale stabber can be removed by pulling just two pins. A gin pole can be attached for lifting engines, pulling fence posts, handling gates and for just about anything else a lift is needed."

The lift is controlled by a switch in the cab.

Rajek has a patent pending on the device and is interested in locating a manufacturer. He will custom build units in the meantime for right at $900.

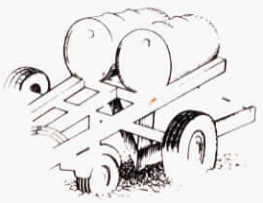
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Rajek, H & H Mfg., Rt. 2, Hennessey, Okla. 73742 (ph 405 853-4991).

"Ingenuity" Helps Control Grass Fires

Dick Hamilton, Arnett, Ok., does a lot of controlled burning of pastures and has found an effective way of building fire guards along fence rows, around corrals, etc. He took a Krause wide-sweep or stubble-mulch plow and moved the blade as far as possible to the rear so dirt can clear the wheels. Then, he added vertical baffles to the sweep so that dirt and trash are shoved aside instead of sliding over the sweep as they do in normal operation. This leaves a clear path with almost nothing in it that will burn. A coulter in the center of the sweep cuts through trash.

The sweep is about 5 ft. wide and is operated at a depth of 1 in. or less. "Even at that depth, it moves a lot of dirt," says Hamilton., "So, you've really got to have those baffles braced well."

Hamilton also added brackets on the frame to support two 55-gal. drums that are filled with sand or water for extra weight. "You've got to have plenty of weight to keep the blade from being pushed aside if you strike a mesquite bush or something like that. Extra weight also keeps the plow from bouncing and helps maintain the right working depth. The frame had



weight brackets on it, but they wouldn't hold enough weight so we added the barrels. They do a good job," he says.

The plow is pulled at 4 to 5 mph with a John Deere 3010 tractor. "There's power to spare," says Hamilton. "You could probably pull it with 35 hp."

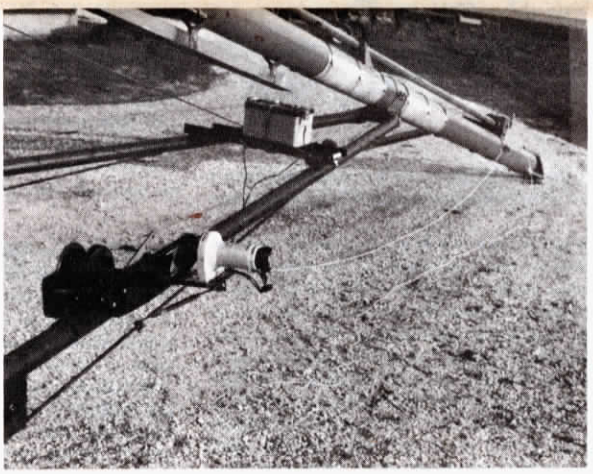
When he started using the plow, Hamilton says he quickly learned to keep the sweep as level as possible so there's no "V" down the center, or so wings of the sweep don't cut too deep. "Either way, you don't get the trash to flow right. But if you get it set level, it really does a good job," he points out. "I was using a trail as a fire break and the fire jumped the trail. But I circled it with the plow and quickly had it under control. It won't stop a prairie fire, but you can backfire from it and it does a good job of controlling fire spread."

FARM SHOW

"Made it Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor



Easier Way To Raise, Lower Augers

A 12V Super Winch adapted to a 62 ft. grain auger makes raising and lowering the auger easier, quicker and safer for Dale and Delmar Graham, of Milford, Ill.

"First, we removed the cable from the Super Winch," Dale told FARM SHOW. "Then, we added two chain sprockets of equal diameters to drive the regular auger winch from the Super Winch.

"Since the drum on the Super Winch doesn't come apart, we had to saw one of the sprockets in half and bolt it onto the winch drum. The other sprocket is bolted onto the handle of the hand winch that came with the auger. A piece of roller chain connects the two sprockets. When the winch is started, the chain transfers the power to the regular auger winch.

"We use a regular 12V tractor battery to power the Super Winch. If, for some reason, anything should fail, we can disconnect the drive chain and lift or lower the auger manually with the regular handle."