Made It Myself

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Front End Bale Mover Handles 16 Bales At Once

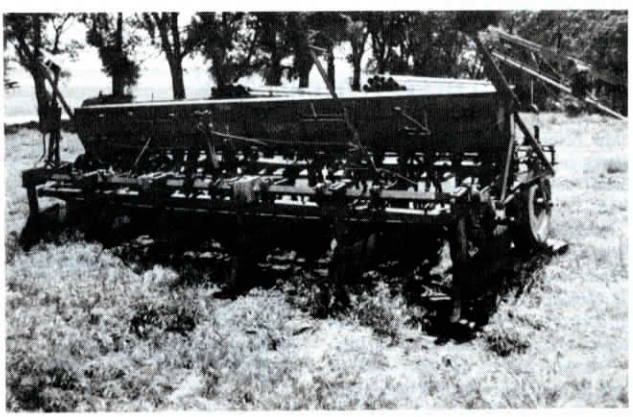
"Leaf loss is minimized and the bales can be stored, loaded for transport, or fed out without ever touching them by hand," says Leslie Zielicke, Fon du Lac, Wis., about the 16-bale front-end loader attachment he built along with his brother Stanley.

The bale handler is mounted on a New Holland skid steer loader but could also be mounted on any tractor front-end loader. "We've used the idea for 20 years, improving it many times. The only time the bales are touched is when they're stacked on the wagon in the field. They're placed in stacks 4-bales high with 4 bales in each layer," says Zielicke.

The spiked bale mover is fitted with 6 1 1/4-in. dia. bale spikes pointed at the front end and rigidly mounted to the box beam frame. Rigid cross supports help balance the stack during transport. A push-off mechanism pushes the stack off the teeth and into place on a wagon or in the mow. Back in storage, Zielicke sets the stacks one on top of the other up to 3 stacks high.

"There's little leaf loss because bales don't get bounced around the way they do with a bale kicker, and broken bales are minimized. Once placed in the 16-bale stacks, bales can be moved, reloaded for transport to another location, hauled to a hayfeeder, or moved to make room for the new crop of hay without handling each bale separately. One man, plus a tractor driver, can put up a large amount of hay with a minimum amount of work. It takes only 10 to 15 min. to unload a wagon and stack the bales in the barn," says Zielicke.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leslie Zielicke, W5642 Campbell Rd., Fon du Lac, Wis. 54935 (ph 414 922-0614).



3-Pt. Ridge-Till Grain Drill

"Before I made this drill, I ridged and then planted but the drill would knock the ridges down. Now I plant and ridge at the same time. It does a great job," says Earl Moore, Rush Center, Kan.

Moore mounted a toolbar at the front of his 3-pt. 14-ft. Deere drill. The bar is fitted with 6 shanks with wide-winged furrowers that dig irrigation furrows and form 30-in. wide ridges. He then modified the disc openers and packer wheels, raising two row units behind each ridger to plant on top of the ridge and two others to plant on each sloping side of the ridge. He changed the position of the row units up by building new support braces that raise each unit up individually.

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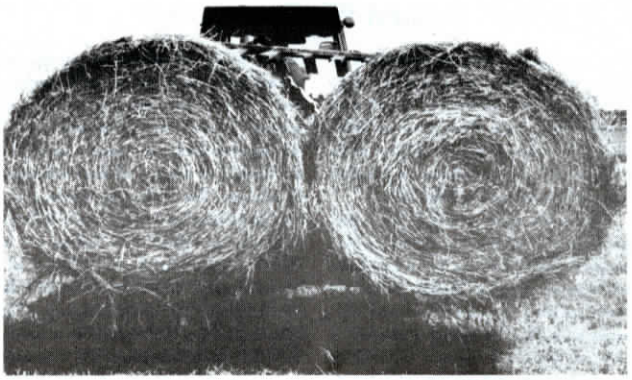
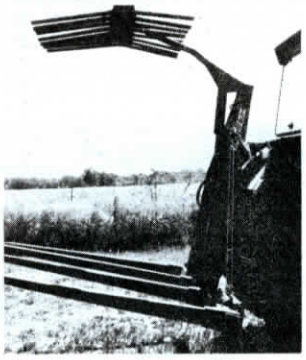


Converted "Stackmover" Hauls Two Bales At Once

Old Hesston stackmovers make nifty 3-pt. bale movers, says Bill Simonson, Avon, Ill., who moves two bales at a time using a bale mover he fashioned out of a converted stackmover with the help of neighbor Donald Kirkpatrick.

"It was originally designed to carry a 3,000 lb. stack so hauling two 1,500 lb. bales is no problem. The frame of the stackmover is made out of square tubing. We simply bought a 5-ft. long piece of 4-in. sq. tubing to slide inside the existing frame. We slid the extension tube in so that about 2 ft. of it sticks out the right side of the mover. We then anchored the extension tube so it would stay in place. Because the stackmover tines attach directly to the frame, we had to build up the extension tube with angle iron so a tine would fit tightly over it. We then welded a U-shaped hook to the outer end of the extension and ran a cable and come-along from the hook to the top of the stackmover tower. This extra support helps hold up the extension.

"The stackmover originally had five tines. We removed one and positioned the other four to accomodate two big bales side by side. Because of the way we built it, the right bale sticks out beyond the right tractor tire so it's away from traffic when moving bales on the road. I need about a 100 hp. tractor or bigger. I've used the bale mover for four years with no problem. I haven't seen anything like it on the market that can handle two bales at once."



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"Oil Tank" Corn Dryer

Allen Twenhafel, Posey, Ill., used a big 500-gal. crude oil tank to create a wood-powered heat exchanger to dry corn with his Shivvers grain drying system.

Twenhafel says he reduced his gas requirements 60% using the wood heater to provide heat to his Shivvers system, which has a capacity of 3,000 bu. per day. He can dry with wood alone at a lower capacity.

The big oil tank, which he bought for $50, stands next to his drying bins. Twenhafel cut large square holes in the sides of the tank to let air in and inserted 300 gal. and 500 gal. fuel tanks, converted into large wood burners, into opposite sides of the big tank. He fires the big wood-burners with wood he gets from a local sawmill for $40 a load. The burners exhaust to the outside so no smoke gets into the big oil tank chamber. The fans on the bins draw the heated-up air out of the oil tank chamber and into the bin.

One firing of the wood burners lasts up to 4 hrs. They raise the air inside the oil tank to about 100°. Twenhafel is considering adding a third wood-burner to raise temperature inside the tank to 120° so that he can eliminate the need for supplemental gas.

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