

3-Pt. Mounted Big Bale Slicer

You can cut a big bale in two in a jiffy with this new bale slicer from Europe.

It consists of two guillotine-like steel blades mounted in a heavy-duty frame. One blade is fixed, the other is powered by twin rams running down two side rails. Three mounting legs support the slicer and position it for attachment to a tractor 3 pt. hitch.

To split bales up to 4 ft. by 4 ft., the slicer is raised over a bale lying on the ground. It's lowered to desired cutting height, then hydraulics drive the powered blade into the fixed blade. Bales are quickly and cleanly sliced for easy feeding.

Suitable for silage, hay or straw bales, plastic wrapping or twine may be left in



place or removed before slicing.

Bales can be sliced in two, three or four sections simply by positioning the blades.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, WestMac Limited, Redlake Trading Estate, Ivybridge, Devon, England PL21 0EZ (ph 1752-698686; fax 896511).

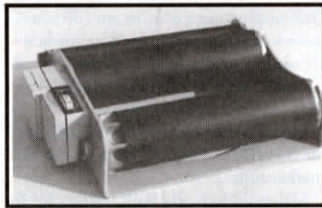
Wheel Driven Generator

You've never seen anything like this wheel-driven compact generator that produces up to 2KW of 110-volt power, driven by one wheel on a car or truck.

"It's a great source of power in the field, out camping, at the beach, or wherever else you need it," says David Brattlebury, inventor, noting that the unit is not designed for prolonged use but for short jobs like drilling a few holes, running emergency tools, flashlights, etc.

To use it, you just jack one drive wheel off the ground, slip in the unit, and lower the wheel onto the rollers. With the wheel turning, you just plug into an outlet on one end of the unit.

Brattlebury is looking for a manufacturer.



He estimates production price of the unit would be about \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Brattlebury, 6 Woodshaw Mead, Wootton Bassett, Wilts. SN4 8RB United Kingdom (ph 01793 854314).

"Straw Depressor" Makes Baling Easier

One problem with big combines is that in high-yielding crops, straw swaths can get almost too big to bale. In Britain, where yields are among the highest in the world, the problem is probably worse than anywhere else.

Workers at an Ipswich farm helped solve the problem of bulky straw swaths by coming up with the "Straw Depressor" - a set of 5 rubber-tired wheels that mount on front of the tractor pulling the baler. The wheels roll across the top of the windrow, depressing the straw enough to keep it from catching on the underside of the tractor and providing a more compact swath for the baler.

The wheels mount on a simple pipe axle with pivoting arms on both ends that bolt directly to the front axle. A pair of adjust-



Photo courtesy Farming News

able length chains let the operator adjust down pressure to suit various size swaths. They also let the wheels float freely up and down on uneven terrain.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Collins Farming Enterprises, Elmsett, Ipswich, United Kingdom.

Easy-To-Use Lightweight Stilts

A father-daughter team walking around on lightweight plastic stilts caught the eye of FARM SHOW's editor at the recent Royal Show in England.

Mike Rowen invented the stilts, which are made from high-tech plastic with nylon straps. "Other stilts on the market are made from steel or aluminum with leather padding and straps. They're heavy and will wear you out," says Rowen, who claims he can walk around all day on his stilts.

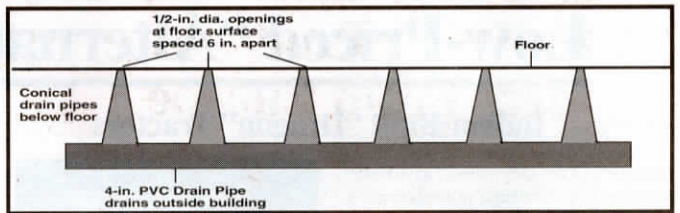
The foot and ankle slip in from the back. If you lose your balance or have any other problem, they're designed so your heel automatically pops out.

Stilts are used by orchard works, rose growers, painters, and for other specialty uses. "Or you can just have fun with them," says Rowen, who has lined up a retail chain in Britain to handle the product, which sells



for about \$45 and comes in three sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Rowen, Hampton in Arden, Solihul, West Midlands (ph 01675 443838).

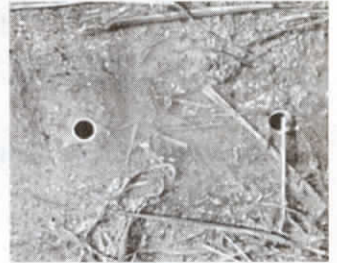


"Porcupine" Drainage System For Barns

"It's a proven drainage system that works better than anything on the market," says David Chatham about his unusual "Porcupine" drainage system which is little known but has been on the market in Europe for several years.

It consists of a 4-in. dia. pvc drain pipe that installs under the concrete floor, running the length of the area you want to drain. A series of conical pipes run from the 4-in. pipe up to the floor surface, spaced about 6 in. apart. The inverted cones narrow down to about 1/2-in. dia. at the surface from their 3-in. base. The small openings are completely open at the surface, with no screens or other coverings over them.

The idea is that water and liquids from manure seep into the holes. If manure, straw or other debris get into the drain holes, they don't plug them up because the conical shape of the drain pipes allows material to fall freely into the 4-in. flush pipe below. Because the openings are small at the floor surface, no big particles can get into the pipe to plug it up. Animals and



people walking over the openings continually push any material on top of the drain holes down into them.

"It's a wonderful way to get liquids out of a barn or feedlot without the need for an open pit, which can expose livestock and workers to toxic fumes," notes Chatham. He has installations in dairy and hog barns, and also in open feedlots.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Chatham, Chatham de Leeuw Ltd., Manor Farm, Tredington, Tewkesbury, Gloucester G12 7BP United Kingdom (ph 01684 274782; fax 01684 275358).

Automatic Slurry Tank Loader

Handling liquid manure has never been as easy as it is with this new automatic tank loader that lets you refill your tank without getting off the tractor.

Hose from a pit or lagoon runs to a flat ramp with a hose fitting. There's a fill hole on top of the ramp. You drive over the ramp with the tractor and stop so a ram on the front corner of the slurry tank lines up with the fill hole. When the ram lowers, it creates an airtight seal thanks to a round rubber tire on the ram that seals against the top of the ramp. Then a hydraulic gate valve is opened and the tank is filled.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles J. Marshall Ltd., Chapel Works, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB2 9TL United



Kingdom (ph 0224 722777; fax 0224 724034).

Brush-Type Mower Conditioner

A new-style mower conditioner that uses a stiff-bristled nylon brush running against a metal roller to condition hay drew lots of attention at the Royal Show in England.

Developed in Holland, several prototype units of the "Greenland HPC" were put out on farms in England this past summer to test the concept before full-scale commercial production begins.

One farmer who tried it told Farmer's Weekly magazine that "Development of the Greenland HPC conditioner is one of the most significant advances ever in the production of high dry matter forage. We sent two samples of hay for laboratory testing - one which had passed through the HPC conditioner and another which had not. Both were cut at the same time and sampled at the same time later that day. The results revealed the conditioned sample had a 32.3% DM and the other 24.5% DM," said Richard Furber, of Audlem, who is a commercial hay producer.



The mower is equipped with drum-type cutting discs. Cut grass passes through two rollers - one with stiff nylon bristles and the other horizontal metal bars. Both rollers are powered with one rotating faster than the other, to cause a "rasping" action that breaks down the outer covering of the stems and speeds wilting. A free-wheeling third roller deflects the exiting grass onto the ground, spreading it out evenly for fast drying.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Richards, Greenland UK Ltd., Alderley Road, Mkt. Drayton, Shropshire TF9 359 (ph 01630 653501).