

Slick Way To Carry A Spare

Custom hay harvester Franklin Pacey doesn't like to get held up on a job with a flat tire. So he came up with a slick way to make sure he's always got a spare when he needs one.

"One bolt is enough to carry a spare at the center of a tractor wheel. Most of our tractors, balers and other equipment use 6-hole wheels so we often just carry one spare. However, some of our tractors use an 8-hole front wheel so then we carry an 8-hole spare on one side of the tractor and a 6-hole on the other side," says Pacey, who custom harvests along with his brothers Laurence and Charles.



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He Sets His Combine To Lose Grain

Gene Goven, Turtle Lake, N.D., has come up with a way to get another \$25 to \$30 per acre out of his wheat, barley and oats fields, according to a recent article by Lon Tonnerson in THE FARMER magazine.

During harvest, Goven adjusts the concave, cylinder and fan settings on his combine to purposely "throw out" an extra 1/2-1 bu. per acre of grain. When the "volunteer" grain sprouts up 4 to 6 in. tall among the stubble, he opens the field to his beef cows and calves for grazing. When the plants are grazed back to 2-3 in. in height,

he moves the herd to another field. Once the grain regrows to 4-6 in. tall, he lets the cows back in, repeating the process until winter.

"Crowding the field is the key," says Goven. "The hoof action tramples grain into the soil. This increases seed germination." By rotating the animals on and off the volunteer grain, more of the seeds germinate and the plants produce forage longer.

"I had been getting \$6 to \$10 per acre of grazing value from stubble," says Goven. "Last year, with timed grazing, I got \$30 to \$38 per acre."

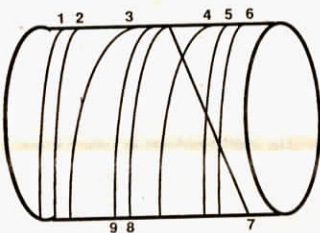
Twine-Saving Bale Wrap Method

You can cut twine costs in half on your round baler using the tying pattern Tom Konechne, Kimball, S. Dak., came up with for his Gehl baler.

FARM SHOW readers may remember Konechne as the inventor of the Bale Buggy, a 5-bale trailer that pulls behind a round baler and "automatically" unloads each bale as it's made with no need to stop or back up. When the Buggy fills up, all five bales can be "power unloaded" at once.

Konechne modified the twine-tie system on his Gehl baler so he can control the movement of the tie arm from his tractor cab. Once he had control of the twine tie arm, he worked on a pattern that would reduce the amount of twine used.

"Many operators wrap each bale 18 to 20 times. This method reduces that number to 9 and holds just as well or better. Because the last wrap is at the center of the bale there's no loose twine end hanging off to the



side as on many wrapped bales," Konechne says.

He makes the first two wraps on the far left side and the next two wraps traveling to the far right where he makes two more wraps. The seventh wrap is made traveling back to the center for the eighth and ninth wraps.

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Barrel Stands

"We got this idea after years of using wobbly old wooden stands. They're easy to make and work great," says Vincent Ahlholm, Warren, Maine.

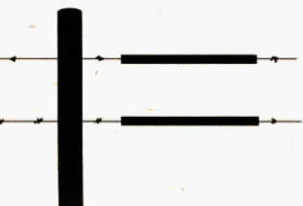
"We use them to store fuel, oil, chemicals and other fluids all over the farm. You simply cut a 'cradle' into the top of a drum with a torch and drill holes in the bottom of the barrel so water can escape. You can put sand or stones in the bottom of the barrel," says Ahlholm.



"Painless" Way To Cross Barbed Wire

Seven-year-old farm boy Allan Campbell, Tilston, Manitoba, won a \$25 prize for this idea which he sent to the Canadian farm magazine GRAINEWS.

"We have an electric barbed wire fence that my Dad has to go through all the time to get to the barnyard from our house. My Grandfather came up with the idea of covering the wires with plastic hose. He used 3-ft. pieces of 1 1/4-in. plastic hose (rubber would work as well), split them lengthwise, and then slipped them over the wires. It



eliminates shocks and, when the electricity is turned off, protects us from the barbs," says Alan.

FARM SHOW

"Best Ideas"

Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

"Lazy Susan" Bolt Bin

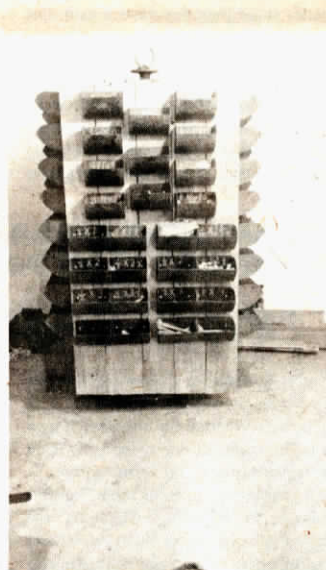
A junked car axle standing on end works great as the base for a "Lazy Susan" bolt bin, according to Paul Dudley, Cato, N.Y., who came up with the idea 5 years ago and now uses it every day.

"We like it because it requires so little floor space and leaves the walls free. It handles all our bolts and nuts from 1/4-in. to 7/8 in. dia. With everything in one place it's easy to take inventory," Dudley told FARM SHOW.

He started with a junked rear car axle, removing the pinion gear and welding the two sides of the axle together with a piece of angle iron. Then he put a wheel and tire on one end and stood the axle on end so it turns freely on the tire base. A 4-in. steel ring was welded to the top of the axle so Dudley can move the unit with a front-end loader or overhead hoist.

The last step was to weld angle iron brackets to the axle and bolt 1 by 5's to them to support the 7-in. elevator buckets used to hold the nuts and bolts. Overall dimensions of the rotating bin are 32 in. wide and 5 ft. high.

"One feature we added that's real handy is a built-in yardstick on each face of the bin. I used a hacksaw to cut notches at 1/2-in. intervals on the edge of a bucket. Now you



can tell how long a bolt is without looking all over for a tape measure," says Dudley.

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They Milk Cows 4 Times A Day!

A father-son dairy team in Stanwood, Wash., has boosted milk production in their 225-cow herd by an average of around 2,500 lbs. per cow by milking four times per day, according to a report in The Dairyman Magazine.

Roy and Kevin Schmidt milk at 1 a.m., 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. It takes about 4 hrs. to milk and clean up each time.

Before they switched to 4X milking, the Schmidts milked 3X for 4 1/2 years. In the first year of 4X milking, output per cow

jumped an average of 2,460 lbs. and 79 lbs. of butterfat. That's an 11% gain over 3X milking.

Mastitis and other health problems have been drastically reduced. Kevin says that because they see the cows every 6 hrs., they're able to spot health problems more rapidly. Heat detection is also easier. Total milking time each day didn't increase much compared to 3X because cows give less pounds per milking on 4X.