

“HANDLES 8 BALES AT A TIME AND GOES MUCH FASTER THAN A TRACTOR”

Self-Propelled Small Square Bale Loader

Looking for a way to handle small square bales fast and efficiently for their custom baling business, Nate Regier, Newton, Kan., and his father Theodore built their own self-propelled small square bale loader out of an old 1 1/2-ton Ford truck chassis, a front-end loader, and a Farmhand 8-bale grabber.

“You won’t find another one like it anywhere,” says Theodore. “It can reach out farther and higher than a tractor-mounted bale grabber and is equipped with an automatic transmission so it’s easy to operate. It still has the truck’s spring suspension system so we can go about 15 mph in the field. We pick up 8 bales at a time in the field. The bales are left in groups of 8 in the field by a Farmhand accumulator that’s attached to our baler.”

The Regiers bought the 1950 Ford truck at an auction for \$125. They shortened the chassis 21 in., then flipped the rear end over to go backward so that the steering wheels are at the back and the dual drive wheels on front. The engine wasn’t any good so it was replaced with a 350 cu. in. V-8 gas engine out of a Chevrolet car. The engine was then converted to propane. They left the Ford truck’s original 4-speed transmission in and used a homemade coupler to connect it to the Chevrolet car’s automatic transmission. A hydraulic pump that’s belt-driven off the engine operates the rig’s hydraulic cylinders. Two cylinders are used to raise the loader, two to tilt the bale fork, and one to open and close the hooks that grab the bales. The machine has power steering (off the Chevy car), power brakes, a roll bar, shade canopy, lights, and the steering wheel off a Deere combine.

“We’ve used it for three years with no problems. We’re amazed at how well it works,” says Regier. “We use a hydraulic pump with an electric clutch that runs off the fan belt to activate the hydraulics. We can lift the bale fork 20 ft. high and stack bales

13 high - right to the top of our shed. We originally used the bale grabber and loader on front of an old Minneapolis Moline tractor, but bouncing across the field virtually destroyed the tractor’s front end. On our new rig the weight is on the drive wheels so we can go faster without damaging anything.

“The 3-speed Chevy automatic transmission is connected to the 4-speed Ford transmission so altogether there are 12 forward and 3 reverse gears. We could go 40 to 50 mph on the highway if we wanted. The gear-shift for the automatic transmission is on the steering column just like on a car so it’s easy to shift gears. The rig doesn’t even have a clutch - to shift to a higher range we stop and put the automatic transmission in neutral, then change gears on the truck transmission



Self-propelled bale loader was built out of an old 1 1/2-ton Ford truck chassis, a front-end loader, and a Farmhand 8-bale grabber.

and put the auto transmission back in gear and go.

“We spent about \$2,000 to build it, not including labor. A commercial model of comparable size would sell for about \$20,000. Nate is a mechanic and was able to get the Chevy engine and transmission from his boss for only \$50.

To transport it on the highway we tow it behind our gooseneck trailer. The manual transmission is taken out of gear to keep from damaging the automatic transmission.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Theodore J. Regier, Bar Cedar Farm, 11675 N.W. 170th, Newton, Kan. 67114 (ph 316 799-2470).



Regier says the bale loader can reach out farther and higher than a tractor-mounted bale grabber. “I can lift the bale fork 20 ft. high and stack bales 11 high - right to the top of our shed,” he says. “It also works great for loading bales on my gooseneck trailer.”



The Grain Handler

It moves approximately 240 lbs. of seed per minute and is powered by a 16 hp Briggs & Stratton engine.

It’s equipped with 50 ft. of 3 in. dia. hose and adapts to gravity wagon.

Optional 2 in. tubing is available.

Sells for \$4,995.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruning Enterprises Inc., 7718 N. State Road 9, Shelbyville, Ind. 46176 (ph 317 835-7591; fax 2814).

Easy-To-Handle Portable Seed Conveyors

You can fill a Deere 750 drill in as little as 7 minutes or a 16-row planter in as little as 5 minutes with these easy-to-handle portable bulk seed conveyors that offer features not found on models introduced in the past.

All three models featured below can

also be used to vacuum seed out of drill or planter boxes. Mounted on a 3 pt. hitch or in a pickup bed, they’re entirely self-contained using electric start gasoline engines rather than pto, hydraulics or electric engines, meaning you can take them anywhere and get to work right away.



Seed Vac

Handles up to 400 lbs. per minute, powered by a 8 hp Kohler engine.

It’s equipped with 25 ft. of 2 in. dia. delivery hose and adapts to gravity wagon.

Options include additional delivery hose and a new 30-gal. vacuum tank to convert Seed Vac into all-purpose shop vac.

Sells for \$3,995.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Christianson Systems Inc., 20421 15th Street SE, P.O. Box 138, Blomkest, Minn. 56216 (ph 800 572-8282 or 320 995-6141; fax 6145; E-mail info@chirstinson.com).



BeanHustler

Handles approximately 350 lbs. of soybean seed per minute and is powered by an 18 hp engine.

It’s equipped with 20 ft. of 3 in. dia. intake hose and 25 ft. of 3 in. dia. discharge hose. A gravity wagon adapter fits over the side chute.

Options include additional hose and radio remote control instead of the standard remote cord switch.

Sells for \$4,995.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BeanHustler, Box 355, Yates City, Ill. 61572 (ph 309 358-1544; fax 1545).