



Tractor-mounted "Stalk Punisher" flattens corn stalks across entire width of tractor. Two 6-ft. long skids that clamp onto a toolbar can be moved in or out.



Unit pivots in the middle to stay in contact with the ground at all times on uneven ground. A pair of heavy duty springs bring it back to the neutral position.

Tractor-Mounted "Stalk Punisher" Works Great On Rough Ground

The latest innovation to save your tractor tires from stalk damage is this new tractor-mounted "Stalk Punisher", which we spotted at the recent Nebraska Power Farming Show.

"It flattens corn stalks across the entire width of your tractor, and pivots left or right to stay in contact with the ground at all times. It works fantastic on hills and uneven ground," says Dale Young, Young's Welding & Repair, Inc., Friend, Neb.

The Stalk Punisher consists of two 6-ft.

long skids made from 1/4-in. thick steel that's covered by a layer of 1/4-in. thick poly. The skids clamp onto a toolbar and can be moved in or out simply by loosening the clamps. Maximum skid coverage is 14 ft., 10 in. The toolbar bolts onto a steel plate that bolts onto the tractor behind the weight brackets.

The entire unit pivots at the middle on a big bushing located behind the toolbar. A pair of heavy duty springs at the top of the toolbar bring it back to the neutral position.

Turnbuckles are used to adjust the spring tension. The unit is raised and lowered by a pair of hydraulic cylinders.

"You don't have to line up with the rows like you do with shoe-type stalk stompers, which is a big advantage," says Young. "By covering the entire width of the tractor you can pull a disk diagonally across a field with no problem. It also works great for strip tilling, where you plant right over the rows made the previous year. The center swivel

feature works great not only on hills but also on ditches and terraces," says Young.

The Stalk Punisher sells for \$5,825.

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Store And Handle Silage Easier

Bunker silos are great, but handling silage in older barns or with small TMR mixer carts can be difficult. A new storage and handling system from J.B. Gingrich provides the transition. Dump the silage in with a large front-end loader, and meter it out into small carts.

"A lot of dairy farmers have gone to bunker storage, but older barns with narrow alleyways and smaller feed carts still have to get the silage to the cows," says Jesse Gingrich, a former dairy farmer himself. "With our storage unit, they can fill small feed carts quickly. They don't have to fork the silage in to get correct amounts."

Each storage unit holds 3 to 4 tons of corn silage. The angled bin has a footprint of 4 ft. by 11 ft. by 10 ft. high. A chain-

driven apron carries silage from the bottom of the bin to drop it in the mixer cart.

"The storage unit is closed on the bottom so there is no feed spillage," says Gingrich. "The apron unloader ensures that feed is kept fresh. It's always first in, first out."

The storage unit can be set up with a stationary mixer. It can be used for commodity feed as well as with silage. It's priced at \$5,600 (Canadian).

"One customer set one up for commodity feeds and another for silage," says Gingrich. "It unloads very quickly and accurately meters silage into your mixer wagons."

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Photo courtesy Ontario Farmer Publications

Each storage unit holds up to 4 tons of corn silage. Operator dumps silage in with a front-end loader. A chain-driven apron meters it out to mixer cart.

"Belted" Hay Feeder Reduces Waste

Bill Kurtz didn't like watching hay go to waste around the outside of his round bale feeder. Cattle would pull large amounts of hay out which would get stepped on and wasted. So he came up with the idea of adding belts to his bale feeder.

"It's based on the idea that cattle can put their heads through smaller openings than they can back out of. The animal can't reach down and bury its head in the hay, then pull out large amounts," says Kurtz, who a few years ago came up with another unique "waste less" horse feeder that was featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 31, No. 4). The new patent pending feeder tapers in toward the top and has a 2-ft. high metal skirt at the bottom. Above the skirt are a series of 12-in. wide rubber belts, each attached to a 1 1/2-in. wide steel upright. There's about 8 in. of space between the belts.

"The belting design allows the use of a narrow opening that helps contain the hay,"

says Kurtz. "As the animals put their heads in the feeder, the belts bend in alongside their necks. As they back out, the belts flip inward keeping excess hay in the feeder."

He says the feeder is built tough to last, with 11-ga. tubing used for the frame and 14-ga. metal for the skirting. It comes unpainted but can be painted on request. Replacement belts are available, as well as an optional carrying bar. "The feeder is built so heavy that one person can't pick it up by hand," says Kurtz.

The feeder is available in 7 and 8-ft. bottom dia. sizes. The 7-ft. model sells for \$795 plus S&H and the 8-ft. for \$895 plus S&H.

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Bale feeder is fitted with 12-in. wide rubber belts spaced 8 in. apart. "Cattle can't pull out large amounts of hay through the narrow openings," says inventor Bill Kurtz.