

FARM SHOW[®]

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TRUCK FACES BACKWARD ON 55-FT. LONG HARVESTER

SP Forage Harvester Carries "Piggyback" Truck

By Bill Gergen, Associate Editor



Alexander carries a 3-ton truck on back of his modified Deere 5400 self-propelled forage harvester. When the truck gets full, he drives it off the 22-ft. long deck and heads back to the farm.

When Gunther Alexander heads out to the field in his self-propelled forage harvester, he's not surprised when people stop on the road to stare. He knows no one's ever seen a rig quite like his.

The Vauxhall, Alberta, farmer-inventor carries a 3-ton truck on the back of his Deere 5400 harvester. When the truck gets full, he drives it off the 22-ft. deck and heads back to the farm.

The entire rig is 55 ft. long and 16 ft. wide and is equipped with big 30.5 by 32 flotation tires on front (off a Deere 8820 combine) and smaller tires on back. The rear axle is used for steering and there's a 12-ft. hydraulic-operated loading ramp on back.

Alexander blows the haylage into a 2-ft. opening at the back of the truck which has a 20-ft.

long, 8-ft. high box. The forage harvester's spout actually extends inside the truck. The box raises hydraulically and dumps its load out through an 8-ft. wide door at the back.

"This setup lets me do the job alone or with one helper, and it eliminates the hassle of filling a truck on-the-go," says Alexander. "I generally use two trucks. An employee drives one truck to town while I fill the other one. Each truck can haul 10 tons of 40 percent moisture haylage.

"I use it on my own farm and I also do custom work for area farmers. Most farmers who chop haylage have to chop it at 60 percent moisture or higher in order to keep it from blowing away when they fill trucks. I take my crop to a local dehydrating plant that likes my lower moisture haylage

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