



Deere ground-driven spreader was converted into a pto-powered, 3-pt. mounted feeder. A steel frame built under the spreader holds it sideways across back of tractor.



Back side of spreader is hinged, allowing it to be folded down for loading bales. Spreader's unloading apron is driven by a hydraulic motor.

Old Manure Spreader Makes Low-Cost Bale Spreader

"It's an easy way to feed small square bales to cattle on pasture," says Michael Boyd, Maxwell, Iowa, who converted a Deere model N ground-driven spreader into a pto-powered, 3-pt. mounted feeder.

The spreader's original wooden floor and sides were rotted out as were the tires. Boyd stripped the rig down to the angle iron frame, removing the hitch, axle, drive mechanism, beaters, etc., but leaving the apron shafts, sprockets, and chain. He made a new floor and sides from 3/4-in. treated plywood. He extended the sides upward 4 ft. by welding hog panel sections to lengths of angle iron. The back side is hinged, allowing it to be

folded down for loading bales.

A steel frame built under the spreader holds it sideways across the back of the tractor. The unloading apron is driven by a hydraulic motor mounted on the spreader and connected directly to the apron shaft by a Love Joy coupler. He uses a 40 hp Ford 4000 tractor to power the rig, which spreads hay in a windrow on the ground.

"It's a real time and labor saver," says Boyd. "I've put more than 15,000 bales through it with no problems. I load bales from the top of a 20-ft. high stack by backing up to the stack, removing the twine, and throwing the bales in loose. I can load 12 to 13

bales this way. When I reach the bottom of the pile I fold the back panel down and stack four bales at a time, remove the twine, then stack another layer, etc. I can load up to 16 bales this way without having to lift bales more than waist high. Broken bales and loose hay are no problem. It also works great for spreading straw or corn stalks as bedding.

"I had been feeding bales from the back of a 4-WD pickup, unloading the hay while 50 hungry cows all converged on me at once. It got to be a real hassle and it always left the back of the pickup messy. I paid \$250 for the hydraulic motor and my total out-of-pocket expense was less than \$300. The most time

consuming part was building the 3-pt. frame that carries the spreader 'sideways'. The frame protects the chain and floor from the weight of the spreader whenever it's lowered to the ground.

"I generally drive fairly fast in order to more lightly distribute the hay. The only problem is that the tractor is light in front and there's no place to hang suitcase weights. I solved the problem by building my own weight bracket which lets me hang four 100-lb. suitcase weights."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael E. Boyd, RR 2, Box 289A, Maxwell, Iowa 50161 (ph 515 387-8694).



Steffen mounted a series of 15-in. spare tires on back of his Friggstad 41-ft. air seeder. Tires mount in seven sections and are spaced 1 ft. apart.

Air Seeder Packer Wheels Made From Car Spare Tires

Small spare car tires can be used to make low-cost packer wheels, says Frank Steffen, High Level, Alberta, who mounted a series of 15-in. spare tires on back of his Friggstad 41-ft. air seeder.

The tires mount in seven sections and are spaced 1 ft. apart. The sections allow the rig to follow the ground contour and to fold for transport. The tires mount on 1 1/8-in. dia. shafts supported by 3-in. sq. steel support arms that bolt to the back of the air seeder. Downpressure is applied to each section by a pair of coil springs mounted at the top of each support.

"It saves a trip over the field because I don't have to use a separate packer tool," says Steffen. "I use the air seeder to plant wheat and canola. When I bought the air seeder five years ago it wasn't available with packer wheels. The wheels improve seed to soil contact. Most new air seeders now come factory equipped with packer wheels.

"I bought 41 spare tires at a scrap yard for

\$10 apiece. My total cost was about \$1,000. Factory-made add-on packer wheels for an air seeder of this size would sell for about \$7,000. When I bought the tires I had to sort them out into sets because some had a little more rubber on them than others. However, since each wheel is independently mounted it can rotate freely even if all the tires aren't sized exactly the same."

Steffen cut the centers out of the wheels, leaving only the rubber and wheel rims, and welded four steel spokes into each wheel from the inside of the rim to a steel tube that slides over the shaft. Each wheel is independently mounted on a sleeve.

The bottom end of each support is connected to the shaft by pillow block bearings mounted on the arms. A steel pin and bushing at the top end of each support allows it to flex up and down.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frank Steffen, Box 458, High Level, Alberta, Canada T0H 1Z0 (ph 403 926-3488).



Tires mount on 1 1/8-in. dia. shafts supported by 3-in. sq. steel support arms that bolt to back of air seeder. Down pressure is applied to each section by a pair of coil springs mounted at top of each support.

Order Form For Subscribers (New & Renewal)

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please sign me up for FARM SHOW. I understand I can cancel at any time and receive a full refund if not satisfied. Check here to renew.

United States

- \$15.95 for 1 yr.
 \$29.95 for 2 yrs.
 \$39.95 for 3 yrs.

Canada (& foreign countries)

- \$23.95 for 1 yr.
 \$43.95 for 2 yrs.
 \$57.95 for 3 yrs.

My check (\$ _____) is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State /Prov. _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW. Clip and mail this coupon to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665). VISA & Mastercard accepted.