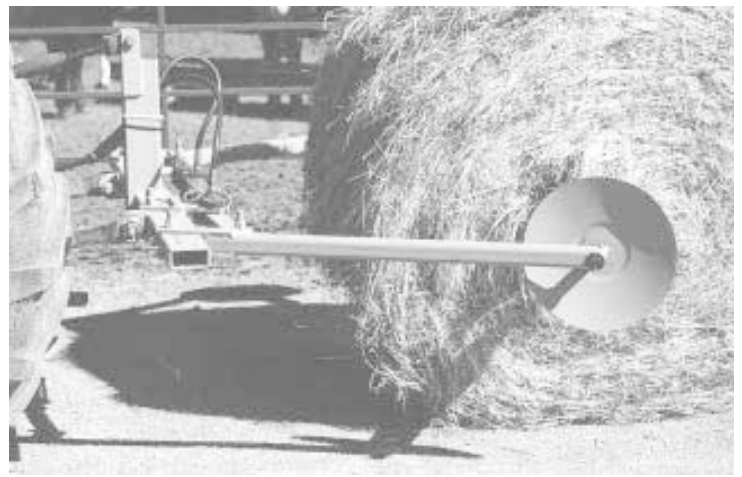




MacGregor's 3-pt. bale unroller is equipped with two pivoting side arms that are opened and closed by a hydraulic cylinder.



Each side arm is fitted with a 12-in. rotating spear mounted on bearings. Discs welded to base of each spear keep bales from rubbing on the side arms as they unroll.

## Do-It-Yourself Round Bale Unroller

Here's a simple round bale unroller that you can build yourself.

Alec MacGregor, Jasper, Ontario, built it to feed round bales to his beef herd. Since he started rolling out bales for cattle, instead of putting the bales into feeders, MacGregor says he's able to disperse manure from the cattle over a wider area by feeding bales out in a different place each day. He's also able to reduce damage to pastures by moving around.

Rolling bales out also reduces waste be-

cause he only feeds out what cattle will eat. And cattle don't fight to get at the hay when it's spread out in a windrow.

The main frame of the bale unroller is rectangular 2 by 4-in. steel tubing with a vertical upright at center that attaches to the top link on the tractor 3-pt. The lower 3-pt. arms attach to the toolbar.

The two pivoting side arms are made from 2-in. sq. steel tubing. They're opened and closed by a hydraulic cylinder positioned across the top of the main toolbar. Each side

arm is fitted with a 12-in. rotating spear mounted on bearings. The spears fit into the center of the bale. Discs welded to the base of each spear keep the bales from rubbing on the side arms as they unroll.

"It took a lot of trips out baling to get the details worked out," notes MacGregor, who notes that the unit can also be used to move bales around the yard as needed. A bale spear on the front end loader carries a second bale.

MacGregor figures he spent about \$90 for

steel and hydraulics to build the unit. He entered it in the Environmental Farm Plan contest run by the Ontario soil & Crop Improvement Association (contact Andrew Graham, program advisor, for details on the contest at 519 826-4216) and won a \$1,000 prize.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alec MacGregor, Graffview Farms, 157 Gammell Rd., Rt. 1, Jasper, Ontario, Canada K0G 1G0 (ph 613 283-8054).

## Floating Spreader Built From A Three-Wheeled Floater

By Mick Lane

Five thousand hogs make a lot of manure and the Weers family farm operation near Diller, Neb., had a manure application problem.

There were a lot of times we needed to spread manure on wet or even muddy fields just to keep ahead of it," says Brian Weers. He was able to avoid compacting soils and tearing up fields by turning an Ag Chem Big A chemical applicator into a "super" floating manure spreader.

I bought the Big A from a local co-op that was getting rid of surplus equipment. I paid \$2,400 for it and sold the dry fertilizer box that was on it for what I paid for the whole machine," he says.

He located a slightly damaged 3,500-gal. stainless steel milk truck tank to serve as the tank on his floating spreader. A small crack on top made the tank useless for hauling milk, but Weers figured it wouldn't make any difference for hauling manure.

He knew that the weight of 3,500 gal. of manure would put a lot of pressure on his Big A, so he decided it needed an extra axle on back.

"To handle rough terrain adequately, we

needed a tag axle that would allow the rear wheels to flex up and down," he says.

To make what he wanted for the tag axle, Weers bought the frame and axle of a second Big A from another elevator for \$1,000. He mounted the telescoping, flexing front fork from that behind the drive axle on his spreader. He added a truck axle to this and then mounted the rear floater wheels from the second Big A to complete the tag axle. Instead of springs for suspension, Weers installed air bags that he can adjust according to the load.

There's about two feet of up-down flex in the tag axle so it really follows the field surface and terraces well.

The tank I bought was three miles away from the farm, so I made a few trips back and forth to take measurements and build mounting brackets. When I had the floater together like I wanted it, a friend raised the tank up with a backhoe and I backed my machine under it. It went together easily."

He also replaced the original hydraulic brakes on his floater/spreader with an air brake system. "I had to modify the sheet



Weers mounted a 3,500-gal. stainless steel milk truck tank on a Big A 3-wheeled chemical applicator. An extra axle on back allows rear wheels to handle rough terrain.

metal a little to mount the compressor, but there was a free pulley on the engine to power it," he says. He uses the compressor to inflate his suspension air bags, too, via a control lever in the cab.

In total, Weers figures he has less than \$5,000 in the machine.

He's using a splash bar to spread the liquid right now. His machine came with a 391 Ford V-8 gasoline engine. To adequately handle a toolbar with injectors, Weers fig-

ures he'd need a bigger engine - and maybe a change in rubber on his drive axle.

The Weers also use the floater spreader as a water tender for their field spraying equipment. "It's stainless steel so it's easy to clean. We just rinse it out and wipe it down on the inside and it's ready to haul spray water," he explains.

Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Weers, 70995 578th Ave., Diller, Neb. 68343.

## Do-It-Yourself Hay Probe

New hay probes sell for \$100 or more but Eckley, Colo., farmer Harry Walker says you can make your own for a buck or two.

He simply sharpens a 36-in. long piece of 5/8-in. dia. electric conduit and then mounts it on the end of a 2-ft. long piece of 2-in. dia. pipe. The larger pipe has a screw-off cap on the end.

He sharpens the end of the conduit at an

angle like a vaccination needle. He shoves the probe into a bale to obtain a sample, then uses a wooden dowel to shove the sample into the bigger pipe. Once the big pipe is full, he takes off the end cap and pours the contents into a plastic bag.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harry Walker, 31975 Rd. T, Eckley, Colo. 80727 (ph 970-359-2392).

