



Home-built, 3-pt. mounted bale handler lets Clark stack bales onto a pickup.

Rear-Mounted Bale Handler Reaches Higher Than Most

Handling big round bales was a hassle for Clyde Clark, Milan, Pennsylvania. If he used a front-end loader, he could stack them higher than he could with a three-point mounted spear. But when it came time to feed them, he found he could get through mud in feedlots and pastures a lot easier if the bale was carried on the back of the tractor.

With those two facts in mind, Clark designed a three-point mounted bale handler that lets him stack bales up to 45 in. high. "I can reach across trailers with it and stack bales higher," he says. "Our bales are 1,800 lbs. and it handles them very well."

Clark's bale handler is a steel tube frame, built so he can extend it higher with a hydraulic cylinder. A second cylinder angles the spear to let him push the bale higher or reach farther.

"A neighbor bought a handler that worked similar to mine, but used a cylinder in the top link," he says. "I think he paid about \$1,200 for it, and it didn't work nearly as well as mine."

Clark has made a couple of handlers using his design. The first, made with 4 and 5-in. thin-walled steel tubing that he had around the farm, buckled when he was using it to move some bales that had frozen down. "It



Frame is made from 3 1/2-in. heavy-walled sq. tubing. The single spear was made from a 2 1/2-in. round bar.

was fine for moving bales, but it just wasn't sturdy enough to take the pressure of pulling those frozen bales loose," he says.

The frame on his second one is made with 3-1/2-in. heavy-walled square tubing. "I braced it well, and think it will stand just about anything I can put on it," he says.

To allow the frame to extend and reach higher, he used an I-shaped configuration, with a scissors action. It has a single spear that he made from a 2 1/2-in. round bar he found in a scrap pile.

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Surplus Plastic Barrels Provide Low-Cost Storage

Surplus 60-gal. olive barrels can be used to provide low-cost storage, says a California company that buys them up, rinses them out, and then puts them up for sale.

We recently spotted an advertisement in Mother Earth News for the barrels, which are made from food grade plastic and painted gray. According to the company, the barrels have been used only once. They weigh 18 lbs. apiece and have built-in handles that make them easy to carry. The entire 22-in. dia. top lid can be unscrewed. Or, you can keep the lid on and use a 2-in. dia. bunge hole located in the center of the lid.

"There a lot of ways you can use these barrels. For example, they can be used for food or water storage, or as planters, composting bins, water troughs, animal feeders, etc. A hand pump can be installed in the bunge hole," says the company.

The barrels sell for \$25 apiece plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Surplus



Surplus 60-gal. barrels can be used for food or water storage, or as planters, water troughs, animal feeders, etc.

City, 4514 Pacific Heights Road, Oroville, Calif. 95965 (ph 530 534-9956; fax 530 534-1170; E-mail: scsales@syix.com; Website: www.surpluscityca.com).



Brian Cope modified a chopper that originally mounted on a 4-wheel handcart and mounted it on front of his skid loader. Chopper is powered off loader's hydraulics.

Bale Chopper Mounts On Skid Steer

Brian Cope, Columbiana, Ohio, always thought the gasoline engine on his bale chopper was a fire hazard. After all, he used the Dynavent machine both to chop hay to feed his dairy cattle and to spread straw and recycled newspaper bedding in the freestall barn. Although shielded, the engine got pretty hot.

The chopper originally mounted on a 4-wheel handcart, with swivel wheels on the back. It was a pretty good load to move around by hand.

When he bought a Deere 240 skid steer loader last year, he decided to do away with the engine and make the chopper more mobile at the same time.

"The loader has auxiliary hydraulic outlets and enough pump and reservoir capacity to run a hydraulic motor," he explains. "I had an old hydraulic motor we'd once used on a difficult auger, so we decided to use that to power the chopper."

Cope started his conversion by removing the handles from the chopper cart and attaching a universal skid steer mounting plate, made from steel scrap he had around the shop. He left the wheels on so he can still move the cart around by hand if he needs to.

Then he replaced the 11 hp Honda engine with the hydraulic motor. "I had to replace the pulley on the chopper shaft and put a different sized one on the hydraulic motor, too, in order to get the chopper and the

rotating hopper on the top that feeds the bales in to both run at the right speeds," he says. "It took some experimenting to get them sized right, but that was probably the most difficult part of changing it over."

He says the original engine had a 4-in. pulley on it, driving a similar sized pulley on the chopper. "I ended up with a 5-in. pulley on the hydraulic motor, driving a 3-in. pulley on the chopper," he says. "It had had double V-belts and I went with single pulleys and one belt. If I were doing it over, I might go back to two belts. I use a lot of newspaper and it can be hard to chop. The single belt slips a little once in awhile, but so far it hasn't caused any real problems."

With the chopper mounted on the front of the skid loader, he can load in a bundle of paper or bale of straw and drive through the freestall barn, blowing bedding into the stalls as he goes. It's much faster and easier to use this way than when we had to move the chopper by hand," he says.

Cope says the conversion was a weekend project. "It didn't take a lot of time to do. If I'd had to buy a used hydraulic motor for it, it might have cost \$100 or so," he says. "Since we used scraps and parts we had on hand, it didn't really cost anything."

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Stools were made by mounting metal implement seats on top of milk cans.

Handy Shop Seats

Friends and relatives of Bob Dunton get sit in style when they visit his farm shop. Along one wall is a line of stools made from metal implement seats mounted on top of milk cans.

He simply bolts the seats to a brace set inside the top opening.

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