



"Bale Flipper" uses an arm to load bales onto a separate trailer to which it is attached.

New-Style Bale-Hauling System

"It completely eliminates the need for a tractor and greatly speeds up transport time between fields. And, only one person is needed to operate it," says Joe Ellis, Cedar Creek, Texas, about his self-contained bale handling system that's designed to load and unload bales onto a trailer.

The system consists of two separate machines that are designed to be hooked up together in the field - the "Bale Flipper", which loads and unloads the bales, and the bale trailer itself, which has four separate bale cradles. The two machines can be pulled together in-line for transport down the road.

In the field, a pair of guide arms are used to hook the Bale Flipper up to the trailer. The operator simply backs up the trailer to lock it in place.

To load bales, the driver moves forward until the bale is enclosed by the Bale Flipper arms. The bale hits a trip switch, which causes a hydraulic cylinder to automatically squeeze the arm tight onto the bale. The arm then lifts the bale 180 degrees up and over the cradle. The bale is released and the loading arm returns to its original position, ready for the next bale. As the loading arm comes down, a latch on the rail is tripped and a brake on the Bale Flipper is applied, causing the machine to slide back to the next cradle as the pickup continues to drive forward. The bale loading process is then repeated.

After four bales are loaded, the Bale Flipper slides off the back of the trailer and an automatic kill switch shuts it off.

To unload bales, the operator manually releases a latch on the first cradle, then lifts

the cradle to dump the bale off. As a safety precaution, the cradle remains tripped until he pulls it back. The process is repeated for each of the other cradles.

The Bale Flipper hooks on behind the trailer for transport.

"It's a one-man system that works fast," says Ellis, who is in the custom hay hauling business. "I built three trailers, so as soon as one trailer is loaded I can hook the Bale Flipper up to the next one. It takes only about 10 minutes to load four bales, including hooking the Bale Flipper up to the trailer. As a result I can haul a lot of hay in one day. Once I hauled 100 bales in only nine hours to a yard that was 1 1/2 miles from the field.

"All controls on the Bale Flipper are mechanical so there are no batteries or electronics to maintain. If I want, I can use a manually-operated lever to extend the Bale Flipper's loading arm or to start or stop the loading cycle at any time. I mounted a window with red and green flags on an upright on front of the loader so that I know when to stop for each bale."

Ellis says he plans to develop a higher-capacity gooseneck trailer model that will haul 10 4-ft. by 6-ft. dia. bales, placing them two bales wide by five bales long. "I also plan to develop a gooseneck model that will handle 4 by 4 by 8-ft. big square bales two wide and three bales long," he notes.

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Both machines can be pulled together in-line for transport.

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Gideon Stoltzfus builds 2 and 3-row planter frames fitted with latest Deere technology.

Planters Built To Order

Deere's Max-Emerge may be the most popular planter ever introduced, but if you want something other than a standard 4-row or larger unit, don't bother asking a Deere dealer. You'll need to search out a custom builder like Gideon Stoltzfus, a former farmer from Gap, Pennsylvania, who has been custom building planters using Deere parts since 1977.

"We do a lot of business with vegetable and produce growers," says Stoltzfus. "We also do a lot of business with researchers for seed companies, chemical companies, university and USDA researchers. Anyone who does plot work."

What started as a farming sideline, producing one or two planters a year, has grown into Pequea Planter, a full time business producing 80 to 100 planters each year. Stoltzfus turned over his dairy and farming operation to his sons and concentrates on building 2 and 3-row planter frames fitted with the latest Deere technology.

The largest planter frames he has built hold 9 row-units. Most are 2-row, but all are designed for simple row adjustments from 15 to 38 in. or anything in between and seed spacing from 4 to 12 in.

When USDA researchers at Beltsville, Maryland needed a planter that would accurately plant 15, 20, and 30-in. rows of corn and soybeans, they came to Stoltzfus. He put together a planter that would plant 4, 6 or 7 rows at a time, depending on desired

row width. He has since built the Beltsville researchers a second planter with the same multiple row-width configuration option.

"We make a lot of one-row pumpkin planters," says Stoltzfus. "Growers need more accuracy than they can get with either a finger system or a plate system, due to the odd seed size. Deere's vacuum system works very well for them."

Stoltzfus offers the full line of Deere seed handling systems - finger pickup, feed cup seed metering or VacuMeter systems. Even the new Radial Bean Meter is available. Planters come as pull type or 3-pt. mounted and with either dry or liquid fertilizer attachments. A full line of options, including chemical applicators and conservation tillage components, are also available.

As more and more farmers have moved away from 8-row planters, Stoltzfus has begun buying up the used planters, rebuilding the row units and mounting them on new frames. "We can sell these planters for considerably less than all new planters," he says.

Stoltzfus sells a standard 3-pt. hitch, 2-row planter with fertilizer attachments for \$5,875, while a pull-type planter goes for \$5,975. Optional equipment and custom designed units are extra.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gideon Stoltzfus, Pequea Planter, 5621 White Horse Road, Gap, Penn. 17527 (ph 717 442-4406).

Frame-Mounted Coulters Meet No-Till Needs

No-tillers looking for frame-mounted coulters for Deere planters can get them from Pequea Planter. When Deere stopped making the popular coulters, originally built for 7000 series planters, Gideon Stoltzfus started. For the past 12 to 13 years, he has made frame-mounted coulters for 7000 series conservation and standard planter frames. In the past year, he has added coulters for the 7200 series conservation and standard planters.

"Springs and bearing parts manufactured for the 7200 series coulters provide the same down pressure as the 7200 series originally provided," says Stoltzfus.

The rippled disk, frame-mounted coulters are especially popular with farmers in rocky and rough conservation tillage conditions. Planter unit-mounted coulters use the weight and gauging control of the planter unit itself; however, any damage to the coulters may damage the entire planting unit. With frame-mounted coulters, the planter row unit is much less likely to be damaged in rocky or extreme conditions.

"Farmers who are serious about no-tilling want a frame-mount coulters," says Stoltzfus.

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