Bottom part of round bale feeder is cut off, leaving the middle ring on. Feeder is then bolted to a modified earth mover tire.

Tire-Mounted Bale Feeder Is Virtually Indestructible

You can convert an old round bale feeder into a virtually indestructible tire feeder by cutting off the bottom part of the feeder and bolting it to a modified earth mover tire, says an Iowa company that recently began marketing the idea.

"It's freeze and rust resistant, and hay spoilage is greatly reduced because the bale sets on the bottom edge of the tire, off the ground," says Kent Jackson, USA Tire Management Systems, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa.

The company uses earth mover tires that measure 10 to 12 ft. in diameter. They cut the sidewall off the top side and drill holes in the bottom sidewall to provide drainage. The customer cuts off the bottom third of his feeder, leaving the middle ring on, then bolts the feeder down to the tire.

"It lets you take advantage of the feeder that you already have and convert it into one that will last a long time," says Jackson. "A lot of farmers have feeders that aren't worth much because they're rusted out at the bottom or broken because they froze to the ground or got mired in manure. Another advantage is that there's less wasted feed."

A front-end loader can be used to clean out the feeder, says Jackson. "You unbolt the ring and use the loader to set it off to one side, then use the loader to tip the tire over upside down."

The tire alone sells for $300. The company also offers units complete with tire and feeder for $500. The company also offers tire water tanks that sell for $125 to $750 depending on size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, USA Tire Management Systems, Inc., 4444 South York St., Sioux City, Iowa 51106 (ph 800 755-8473; fax 712 255-9239; E-mail: tirecut@pionet.net)

Woven Wire Unrollers

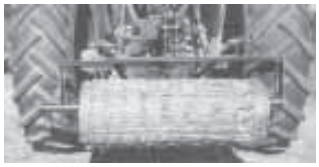
Handling large rolls of woven wire is difficult and awkward. That's what prompted George Cook, Scottsville, Minn., to design a pair of tractor-mounted unrollers.

The first holds a roll of wire horizontal to the ground. You simply drop the 3-pt. hitch mounted device over the roll of wire and insert a pipe through the ends of the device and the roll of wire. The device handles rolls up to 52 in. wide and 24 in. dia. It's made from 3/8-in. plate steel and weighs 64 lbs. Sells for $90 plus S&H.

The second wire handler is designed to hold the roll of wire vertically. To pick up a roll, you lower it to the ground and back into the roll. The 4-in. dia. pipe is inserted into the center of the roll. Then you lift it up vertically (one or two men can lift) and fasten the frame to the top link on the 3-pt. The wire roll rests on two 20-in. dia. circular metal plates that turn against each other. One is fixed in place and the other turns with the wire. As the wire is unrolled, it's prevented from coming off too fast by the two plates rubbing together.

Sells for $350 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Cook, Rt. 5, Box 2445, Scottsville, Va. 24590 (ph 434 873-1461).



One of Cook's wire handlers holds a roll of wire horizontal to the ground.

Another handler holds roll of wire vertically.

To pick up a roll, you lower unit to ground and back into wire.

The Atarus Stinger uses a propane-fired generator to create a high velocity stream of super-heated steam which is directed at weeds.

"Weed Cooker" Uses Steam To Kill Weeds

A hot new idea in weed control uses super-heated steam. The Atarus Stinger is under development by Origin Energy of Australia and Delta Liquid Energy, Paso Robles, California. The weed killer uses a propane-fired generator to produce steam in excess of 850 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The Atarus Stinger creates a high velocity stream of super-heated steam which is directed at weeds," says Robert Jacobs, director of marketing, Delta Liquid energy. "It increases the cell wall temperature of the weeds to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, causing them to burst."

Jacobs says using steam works better than the propane-fired weed burners that have been on the market for years. He points out that "flamers" often require a burn permit. They also can melt drip irrigation tubing and run the risk of setting mulch or field debris on fire. One other problem with propane burners is that the flame is essentially invisible, and it is easy to get too close to the plants you want to protect.

"We've used the Stinger in vineyards with grape canes the size of a pencil and with drip tubing on the ground, and it didn't hurt either when we maintained a ground speed of around 3-4 mph," says Jacobs. "And steam actually transfers more heat than fire does."

The heart of the Stinger is the steam generator, a 3 1/2-ft. long pressurized container with 18-in. square ends. Water and propane lines connect to the box, which is equipped with electronic ignition. Copper tubing wrapped around the box preheats the incoming water and cools the outside temperature of the generator unit. The water is injected at 100 cu. lbs. pressure to mix with the hot gas from the burning propane. As it vaporizes, it creates the super-heated steam.

Delta has tested a towable unit for use with ATV's and tractor-towed units, and now is building a 3-pt hitch unit. This vineyard unit will have a steam generator on each side of the row and be designed to shoot steam under the vines. Jacobs is anxious to get it out in the field for testing. He recognizes that different crops, from grapes to strawberries to almonds, will require different designs.

Grape, almond, strawberry, even cotton growers are going organic," says Jacobs. "Farm managers still have to figure how to keep weeds down."

Current plans are to have units in production and available for sale within the next 6 months. The generators alone - without mounting equipment - are available now for those who want to build their own weed cooker.

"A generator costs $4,000 and weighs about 75 lbs.," says Jacobs. "We recommend using two, one for each side of a row. I would estimate a two-row unit using four generators would sell for approximately $25,000."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Jacobs, Delta Liquid Energy, 1960 Ramada Drive, Paso Robles, Calif. 93446 (ph 805 239-0616; fax 805 239-1327; E-mail: robertj@deltaliquidenergy.com)

Unit has been used in vineyards without damaging canes or drip irrigation tubing.