



Instead of spending thousands for a front-mount bale hauler, Robert Thomas built his own that makes use of a commercial 3-pt. bale spear:

Front-Mount Kubota Bale Spear

When Robert Thomas bought a Kubota M6800 tractor he wanted to use it to haul round bales out of the field. Instead of spending thousands for a front-mount bale hauler, he built his own that makes use of a commercial 3-pt. bale spear.

"My total cost was about \$450 so I saved a lot of money," says Thomas, of Buffalo, Texas. "It has about 24 in. of lift. I use it to haul bales out of the field and to feed our cows. By adding a bale on back of the tractor I can haul two bales at a time."

The bale lift mounts on the tractor's front bumper. Thomas welded 8-in. long steel plates onto both sides of the frame. A pair of stabilizer bars and Cat. I 3-pt. forged lift arms extend forward from the plates. A steel bar bolts on crosswise between the lift arms and supports a 3 by 8-in. hydraulic cylinder. The upper end of the cylinder attaches to a big steel guard that bolts to the bumper. The top end of the bale spear pins onto a steel bracket that splits and goes around both sides of the cylinder and hinges onto both sides of the guard.

Retracting the cylinder raises the bale spear; extending it lowers the spear to ground level.

"It lets me pick up bales on-the-go without even slowing down," says Thomas. "After lowering the bale spear I stab the bale and then retract the cylinder to lift the bale up off the ground. The bracket that's welded on the bumper and supports the cylinder has multiple holes in it, so if I want I can use a different size cylinder."

"Hydraulic hoses run from the cylinder back to the tractor's remote outlets, allowing me to use the existing hydraulic control levers inside the cab."

According to Thomas, the critical part of the design is the area where the cylinder hooks onto the cross bar, between the stabilizer arms. "It has to be rigid in order to evenly support the weight of the bale," notes Thomas.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Thomas, RLT Ranch, 6473 CR 327, Buffalo, Texas 75831 (ph 903 626-4113).



Bud Robbins drove across Iowa in comfort in this "stretched" Farmall, which seats up to five people. He drove the tractor in "The Great Eastern Iowa Tractor Ride."

"Stretched Tractor" Adds To Tractor Ride Fun

Traveling 180 miles over three days along with 900 other tractors is too much fun not to share with as many family members as possible, says Bud Robbins, who built a specially modified tractor for "The Great Eastern Iowa Tractor Ride," sponsored by Cedar Rapids radio station, "WMT."

"It's just plain good, clean family entertainment and a lot of fun," he says. "I've been going to the ride for three years now. My brother just turned 82, and he couldn't handle driving a tractor himself anymore. That's the reason we built our 'Lemuhzeene,' which seats five people with room for a cooler."

The project was a collaboration of Bud and several members of the Cheriton River Valley Antique Power Association.

They welded together parts from two 1945

WC Allis Chalmers frames between the original tractor's front and rear ends, and put in a long drive shaft, with extra bracing for safety. It's "braced out to the cultivator bracket mounts to stabilize it." Cross members were welded on top of that, and they used a 4 by 8-ft. sheet of plywood for a deck. Seating is three-tiered, with two school bus bench seats and a very comfortable Farmall 460 seat for the driver. Each of the back two rows of seats are set eight to 10 inches higher than the seat in front of it.

The tractor has since been sold to "Main Street Café" in Knoxville, Iowa, which will use it for publicity.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud Robbins, 1722 Hwy. S45, Dallas, Iowa, 50062 (ph 641 947-6218).



"It lets you group bales three high, which reduces time spent retrieving bales from the field by up to 75 percent," says Howard Moulson about his tow-behind big bale accumulator.

Accumulator Stacks Big Bales Three High

This new tow-behind big bale accumulator hitches to the baler and fills up with a load of big bales, then automatically unloads the bales onto the back.

"It lets you group bales three high, which reduces time spent retrieving bales from the field by up to 75 percent," says Howard Moulson, Moulson's Welding, Foxwarren, Manitoba.

The Wray Stacker was invented by farmers David and Don Wray of Russell, Manitoba. It's designed to handle 3 by 3 by 8-ft. bales (a unit for other size big bales is coming soon). The machine operates off tractor hydraulics and is equipped with a scissor hoist-operated "tilt table" on one side and a stationary table on the other side. The baler automatically ejects the bale onto the tilt table. The scissor hoist then raises the tilt table to a pre-determined height, and a hydraulic cylinder under the table platform tilts the bale 1/4 turn onto the stationary table. The procedure is repeated for the next two bales, with the tilt table rising higher each time.

The second table is equipped with a 2-ft. tailgate on back. As soon as the three bales are in place, the tailgate is lowered to the ground and a kick-off arm then pushes all three bales gently onto the ground. A switch

in the cab can be used to override the automatic ejection of the bales. For example, you don't want to eject the bales right away if you're going through a ditch or gully or making a turn.

The machine rides on a pair of 15-in. wheels and hooks rigidly behind the baler, so when the baler turns it follows exactly behind the baler.

"Conventional big bale accumulators place three bales flat on the ground and side by side. Our design lets you use standard loader-mounted forks to lift all three bales at a time with no need to rotate them. When loaded onto a semi trailer this way the three bales are exactly the right height for shipping," says Moulson. He notes that the company has recently added another switch that allows the operator to drop one bale and stack either two or three bales, if desired.

He says he plans to soon offer an accumulator that will stack 4-ft. wide by 3-ft. high bales two high.

Sells for \$13,500 (U.S.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moulson's Welding, Box 82, Foxwarren, Manitoba, Canada R0J 0R0 (ph 204 847-2227; fax 204 847-2392; website: www.moulsonswelding.com).

Round Bale Blind Fools Geese, Varmints

This two-man, portable hunting blind looks just like a real 1,000-lb. round bale. It weighs only 28 lbs. and sets up or takes down in only about one minute.

The Hay Bale Blind is 54 in. high and is made from waterproof nylon. The unit is built on a heavy duty polyethylene sled that can also be used to haul gear and decoys. There's a 2-in. viewing slot along each side of the blind and a zippered door at each end. The user provides his own seating. The roof opens by pulling on a rip cord.

Optional features include a snow-covered roof and a see-through mesh roof with drop-down window panels. The see-through roof allows you to monitor the flight of birds directly overhead without being seen.

"The blind looks natural to geese flying by so it makes a good hiding place," says Curt Hill, GooseView Industries, Grand Rapids, Minn. "It's designed mostly for waterfowl but also works great for hunting turkeys, crows and doves, big game and even varmints. Snap-on shelves are available to hold shotgun shells, calls, thermos bottles, etc."

Bale Blinds start at \$199.



Hay Bale blind looks like a 1,000-lb. round bale and sets up or takes down in only about one minute. Roof opens by pulling on a rip cord.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, GooseView Industries, Dept. FFG, 628 Hwy. 2 East, Grand Rapids, Minn. 55744 (ph 800 399-5034; email: orders@gooseview.com; website: www.gooseview.com).