"A Great Way To Unroll Bales"

Owen Yandell of Havana, Ark., absolutely loves the round bale unroller he invented.

"It is the cheapest, the simplest, and the best bale unroller I have ever seen," he says.

Yandell uses a center spike on his tractor's bucket to spear and carry bales to the feeding or bedding area. However, by welding a base for another spike on the bottom, left side of the bucket wall, he can easily unroll the bales.

"The spike sticks out to the left of the loader," Yandell says. "Once you set the bale down with your center spike, you back your tractor up, turning just to the right of the bale until you are in line to spear it in the center with the side spike when you move forward again. With a little downward pressure from the spike, the bale starts unrolling as you move ahead. If you come to a wet spot, you can lift the bale up and set it down again where it's dry, or if you want to unroll only part of a bale, just lift it up and take it somewhere else."

The unrolling spike is held on with a single bolt, so removing it for other farm work is a quick and simple task. The base sticks out about 4 in. and doesn't get in the way at all when you're doing other jobs.

"To keep the bale on the bale spike when unrolling in a forward direction, you will learn to constantly go a little bit to the left – this will keep the bale from coming off your spike," he points out. "Using this system, I can unroll a bale in a minute's time. It took less than 30 min. of welding time to have it ready to use."

Yandell insists that his system is "surprisingly easy."

"After you've done it two or three times, it's absolutely no problem to get the spike centered in the bale," he says. "Try it - you'll like it, and you'll be amazed what a simple unrolling solution it is. The only potential problem is that you've got to be conscious that there's a spike sticking out there 3 or 4 ft. to the left, so you don't want to hit anything with it – for example, when going through a gate."

Yandell bought his second bale spike for $80, but says many people might choose to make their own.

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"Try it - you'll be amazed what a simple unrolling solution it is," says Owen Yandell.

To keep the bale on the spike when unrolling, you go constantly a little toward the left.

"Roller Mill Bagger" Does Two Jobs

Running corn through a roller mill and then loading it into a bagger can be a great way to store feed, but doing it is a hassle. Because a bagger slowly moves ahead as the silage bag fills, the roller mill and the wagon emptying into it have to roll ahead as well.

"We had to have a tractor on the mill and one on the bagger," recalls David Weaver, who does custom bagging of shelled corn and silage as well as custom baling and manure application. "I figured that by putting a roller mill on top of the bagger, I would only need one tractor. It might not be any faster, but it would be a lot simpler."

Weaver began by ordering a custom-built roller mill from Isaac H Nolt, Leola, Penn. at a cost of about $8,500. It's designed to fit atop the bagger.

His plan was to adapt the 1,000-rpm roller mill to his 540-rpm bagger. It didn't work as well as he had hoped. So, he got Kelly Ryan Equipment Company to customize a bagger to run at 1,000 rpm's.

"The bagger came with a conveyor and a shield over the hopper," says Weaver. "I took the conveyor and shield off and adapted them so they could be reconnected again when needed for silage bagging."

He welded two flanges to a heavy crossbeam that runs across the rear of the bagger hopper. The 2 by 3-in. high pieces of 1/2-in. steel plate had holes drilled in them to match holes in the rear of the roller mill frame. Two 1/2-in. bolts connecting the mill and the flanges served also as pivot points or hinge points.

At the front of the bagger, Weaver constructed a frame from angle iron reinforced with tube steel cross bars and triangular pieces of steel. This frame mounts to the top of the bagger gearbox and formed a base to mount the roller mill.

"I used two bolts with nuts on the top and bottom to connect the mill to the framework," says Weaver. "At that point the belt was slack and could be slipped on. To tighten the belt, I just screwed the bolt up to take out the slack."

The belt runs from a specially machined pulley on the gearbox to the main shaft on the mill. It is a high torque, flat belt only 3/16 in. thick, but able to handle about 200 hp.

"The belt works just perfect," says Weaver. "The machine runs real quiet."

The auger that feeds the mill has wheels, allowing it to pivot in place by the wagon as the mill/bagger moves forward. This allows the operator to set up the wagon ahead of the bagger and not move it again until the bagger has moved up ahead of the wagon.

Setup lets David Weaver run corn through a roller mill and bag it at the same time.

Belt runs from a specially machined pulley on gearbox to main shaft on mill. "The machine runs real quiet," Weaver says.

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Lifter Arms Fit Any Chainsaw

If you've ever used a chainsaw to cut downed wood or limbs on the ground, you know it can be a frustrating job. This new attachment lifts the wood for cutting, keeping the chain up out of the dirt.

"It lets you work fast, and it also extends the life of your bar and chain by keeping them off the ground at all times," says inventor Gerald Porter.

The Chainsaw Buddy can be used with any gas or electric chainsaw equipped with a bar at least 14 in. long. No modifications to the chainsaw or bar are required. It can be used to cut logs up to 8 in. in diameter.

The cast aluminum unit attaches to the chainsaw bar with three pressure-mount screws. A pair of 12 1/2-in. long, curved metal "swing arms" slip under the log. A pair of vertical metal uprights with serrated stops hold the wood in place. The uprights can be adjusted forward or backward, depending on the size of the log, by simply unscrewing a hand knob.

As you cut, the swing arms - which are free to pivot - allow you to rotate the chainsaw down into the wood. A "stop" on the unit's main body keeps the chainsaw bar from touching the ground.

"It holds the wood for you, letting you work in a safer, more balanced position. You don't have to stand on one leg while using the other leg to steady the wood you're cutting," says Porter. "It weighs a little less than 3 lbs., but the only time you really feel the extra weight is when transporting the saw to a new location. Otherwise, the swing arms help balance the saw and stay on the ground so you hardly notice the extra weight."

He says it's not meant for cutting branches off trees, because the swing arms would get in the way. "I leave the attachment on one of my chain saws all the time just for cutting felled logs. I use another saw to cut trees down and to trim off the limbs. However, it takes only a minute or so to put it on so you don't need to have two saws."

Sells for $42.99 including S&H; $59.99 including S&H in Canada.

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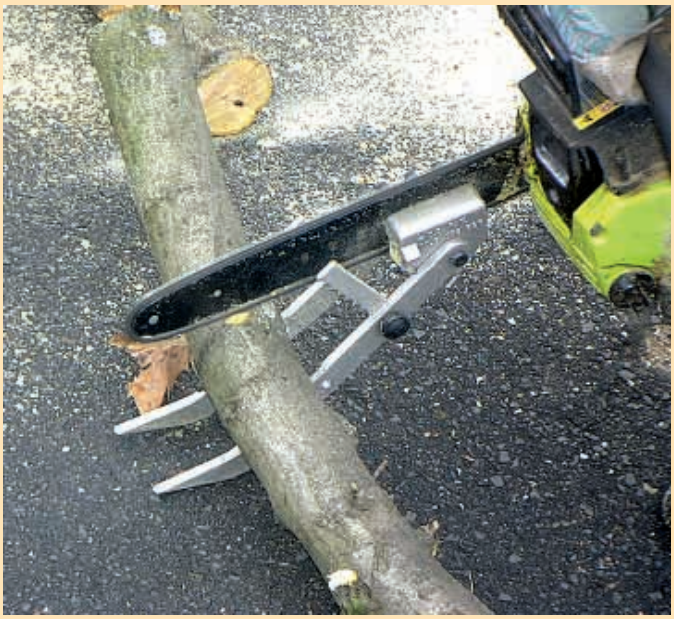

"It lets you work fast, and it also extends the life of your chainsaw by keeping the bar off the ground at all times," says inventor Gerald Porter.