



Elias 3-pt. mounted bale scale is accurate to within one percent, says the company.

## Bale Scale Makes Weighing Convenient

Elias Scales of North Battleford, Sask., sells 3-pt. hitch bale scales for quick and easy single-bale weighing and transport.

The maintenance-free system consists of one sealed, fluid-driven load cell, so no electronics are required, and the weight can be read from the tractor cab.

The rugged gauge, which reads in both lbs. and kilograms, has stainless steel works and a fine hand for accurate reading on a 6-in. dial. The fine pointer on the gauge lets you weigh to within one or two lbs.

"The Elias scale is quick and easy to use because it's ready immediately after mounting to the tractor's 3-pt. hitch," says company representative Ken Kemp. "It's accurate to within one percent, even if the bale is heavier on one side."

The scale is priced at \$2,395 (Can.) plus shipping. There is also a front end loader spear scale that quickly mounts in the bucket of the tractor. This model sells for \$2,195 (Can.), plus shipping.

The company also manufactures and sells a wide range of scales for other applications, including cradle scales and livestock scales.

"Our scales have been in service for more than 20 years in both Canada and the U.S., and we have dealers in both countries," Kemp says. "We'd like to expand to other countries as well."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elias Scale, P. O. Box 1304, North Battleford, Sask., Canada S9A 3L8 (ph 306 445-2111; info@eliasscales.com; www.eliasscales.com).

## Plastic "Clutched" Auger Saves Lives

"Augersafe" is a newly patented grain auger flighting that's made from polyurethane with an internal clutch. It's designed to prevent serious damage to feet, arms or hands, should an accident occur.

This new auger component was invented by an Australian farmer who tragically lost his son in an auger accident.

Export representative Jim Raz of Adelaide, South Australia, has been promoting the unit to grain auger manufacturers, and is hoping to find a North American company who's interested in putting it into production.

"This invention has been designed to curb a very serious problem, so adoption by both legislators and farmers is so important," Raz says. "To our knowledge, there have been no significant developments in the area of auger safety standards since guards were put into manufacturing requirements, and we all know that people take off guards. The Augersafe offers a second-tier defense mechanism to protect workers from death and serious injury."

Augersafe makes up the bottom 2 ft. of an auger, solving both safety and seed damage concerns seen with conventional steel flighting.

"The pure poly flighting has no hard steel parts, so there's no sharp edges like you have with steel flighting," Raz explains. "It can't chop off limbs, but the impact of disengagement could cause some bruising. The internal clutch (located where the poly flighting and the steel flighting join) will disengage if anything gets jammed, stopping the bottom 24 inches instantly, while the rest of the auger keeps running to clean out the grain in the tube."

Added bonuses are that the poly flighting is also proving to be more gentle on crops



Poly flighting fits bottom 2 ft. of auger.

and it outlasts steel.

Raz is currently in negotiations with an interested North American manufacturer and hopes to work out a production agreement in the coming months.

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Gary and Debbie Chikousky add alfalfa screenings to their livestock's loose salt and minerals. Animals then distribute seeds as they pass through their digestive systems.

## He Reseeds Pastures Using Cow, Sheep And Goat Manure

A Narcisse, Manitoba couple is doubling their forage production without the expensive equipment normally required to reseed pasture and hay fields. Instead, they make use of animal manure in an innovative way.

Gary and Debbie Chikousky simply add alfalfa and trefoil screenings, purchased from a local organic seed grower, to their livestock's loose salt and minerals.

The animals do the work of distributing the seed since the tough alfalfa seeds pass through their digestive systems. Their cattle, goats and sheep provide a cheap and easy vehicle for re-seeding pastures.

The couple emphasizes that the seed must be untreated, otherwise it would harm or kill the livestock.

Chikouskys mix one-quarter (by volume) screenings with their cows' salt and minerals, and a bit less for the sheep and goats.

For fenced hayfields, they fall pasture their sheep and goats about six weeks after putting up the hay. They say that the small, sharp hooves aerate the soil, and improve growing conditions for the seed the animals unknowingly spread.

In their experimentation, the Chikouskys have learned that timothy seed, with its softer seed coat, doesn't work as well in their live-

stock feed system because the seed gets digested.

The couple also spreads composted manure on pastures that they've manually top-dressed with alfalfa, trefoil and timothy screenings, using their New Holland 512 spreader.

"Our recipe is one liter of mixed alfalfa, trefoil and timothy screenings, spread on the top of each manure spreader load," Debbie explains. "We doubled production from 2005 to 2006 on one field where we used this method. In 2007, while production on other fields dropped due to low moisture, that field held its own."

While the Chikouskys acknowledge that the organic screenings do contain a significant number of weed seeds, their research has found that dandelions and stinging nettles (common to their area) actually contain reasonably high levels of protein and Vitamin A.

"We're also pleased that patches of foxtail are being replaced with plants that our stock can eat with good nutritional value," she says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary and Debbie Chikousky, P. O. Box 22, Narcisse, Manitoba, Canada R0C 2H0 (ph 204 278-3640; gchik@mts.net).



Engine-powered forecart provides all the pto power needed to pull a Krone round baler.

## "Best Buy" Engine-Powered Forecart

Robert C. Yoder, Apple Creek, Ohio, finds lots of uses for his horse-drawn Pioneer "forecart" on his organic Jersey dairy operation.

The engine-powered forecart is manufactured by Pioneer Equipment Co., Dalton, Ohio. Geared primarily to Amish customers, the company also produces a huge number of implements to go with it.

Yoder's forecart is powered by a 72 hp Deutz diesel air-cooled engine that gives him all the pto power he needs to pull a Krone round baler.

The forecart is equipped with a hillside steering system which allows him to always line up the baler with the hay windrow. Without this steering mechanism (which operates much like a boat tiller) staying squared off with the windrows would be difficult.

The big bales produced by the Krone

baler are handled with a bale loader that's also pulled by horses.

Yoder also uses the forecart to power a single row New Holland forage chopper. Silage is then blown into an upright silo using tractor power.

Pioneer forecarts, powered by gas or diesel engines, range from 20 to 72 hp. All the horses have to do is pull the machine. Each forecart has a control panel with choke, throttle, hydraulic valve levers, clutch levers and brake lock valves, all within easy reach from the operator's seat.

The forecarts also work well with rotary mowers, haybines, rakes, tedders, small square balers, corn pickers, and any other pto-powered equipment, says the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pioneer Equipment, Inc., 16875 Jericho Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 330 857-6340; fax 330 857-0296).