

Mechanic Turned Truck Parts Into Hay Loader

Vern Schneider didn't want to invest in a tractor and loader just to feed hay to his 200 sheep, so he built a hay loader out of old truck parts.

"I fixed cars for 40 years," says Schneider of New Cambria, Kansas. "And I built all kinds of weird stuff."

His truck looks strange and is about the size of a 4020 John Deere tractor. But it does the job.

Schneider bolted a mid-1980's S-10 pickup cab onto a 1975 2 1/2-ton 70 series Chevy truck frame. He added hydraulic pumps and fittings and attached a used loader to the front, which gives him great visibility.

To balance the weight of the bales, he moved the motor toward the back and mounted a forklift weight box on the rear. The S-10 has a club cab, which is important, Schneider laughs, so he can "throw junk behind the seat."

He made a spear for big bales out of 2-in. round cold rolled steel, a 1 1/4-in. stress-proof iron spear for large square bales, and a bale clamp to carry eight square bales at a time.



Heads turn whenever Vern Schneider goes to pick up big square bales. He bolted a mid-1980's S-10 pickup cab onto a 1975 2 1/2-ton Chevy truck frame and attached a used loader on front. Forklift weight box on the rear helps balance the weight of the bales.

The rig will easily handle 1,600-lb. round bales, Schneider says. Plus the loader comes in handy for tree trimming, when he adds a cage. Schneider has used it for two years and

it has worked well.

He estimates he spent about \$2,000 on it, mostly for the loader and hydraulic pump and fittings.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vern Schneider, 3698 N. Woodward Rd., New Cambria, Kansas 67470 (ph 785 827-6325).

Staple Driver Holds Wire In Place

This new staple driver holds both the wire and staple in place, making fence construction and repair a much faster and easier job.

It holds the staple in place while you drive it into the post with a hammer. The steel tool is equipped with a staple cartridge, a driver rod, and a 2-pronged fork that's used to grip the wire.

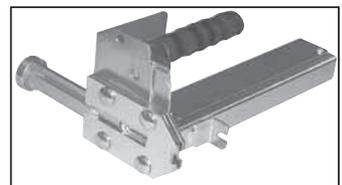
The tool requires the use of specially designed staple strips, which fit in a spring-loaded magazine. There are 22 staples to a strip.

"It eliminates the need to ever handle the staple and speeds up the process dramatically," says Ron Haase, Dutton-Lainson Co.,

Hastings, Neb. "Unless the post is incredibly soft, it usually takes more than a single strike to drive the staple all the way home. Some people strike the rod a couple of times to get the staple started, then pull the tool away and finish driving in the staple normally. Others use the tool to drive the staple all the way in. Either way, once you pull the driver rod back another staple feeds in automatically and you're ready to go again."

The staples are available in 1 1/4, 1 1/2, and 1 3/4-in. lengths. "These are barbed-type staples, so once they're in the post they'll stay," says Haase.

If you're left handed, you can reverse the



Staple driver lets you safely hold a staple in place while driving it into the post with a hammer.

handle and guard, he notes.

The staple driver sells for about \$60 plus S&H.

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Lainson Co., Hastings, Neb. 68902 (ph 402 462-4141 or 402 460-4612; dlsales@dutton-lainson.com; www.Dutton-lainson.com).



Sheep feeder is virtually weatherproof and holds about 4,000 lbs. of grain or pellets. It measures 16 ft. long and has a feeding trough on each side.

Heavy Duty Sheep Feeder

"My neighbor brought a large sheep feeder to me and asked if I would build one similar to it. He pointed out where he wanted the weak areas reinforced. The result was a very sturdy feeder which is virtually weatherproof and holds about 4,000 lbs. of grain or pellets," says Tom Daniels, Arco, Minn.

The feeder measures 16 ft. long, 34 in. wide, and 5 ft. high and has a feeding trough on each side. It's made from 5/8-in. thick plywood and pole barn sheet metal, framed with 2 by 4's, and has a hinged lid on top. The plywood bottom and 2 by 6 supports are penta-treated wood. The feeder is mounted on creosote-treated skids made of bridge plank. Most producers set the feeder on big poles or cement blocks to keep the bottom out of the muck and mud, and allow space for a front-end loader to reach under and move the feeder to another location.

The depth of the 2 by 8 trough keeps ani-

mals from wasting feed. The entire feeder is held together with heavy duty screws.

"After seeing the feeder, other neighbors have asked me to build for them," says Daniels.

"Word of mouth has kept me busy making feeders in recent months. I've recently started building 8 and 12-ft. feeders for smaller producers and for people who need to move the feeders more easily. These feeders are heavy duty - the 16-ft. unit weighs almost 800 lbs. - and they work equally good for fattening lambs or goats."

To determine how much feeder space is needed, one 16-ft. model will accommodate about 350 lambs.

The 16-ft. feeder sells for \$750; the 12-ft. model for \$600; and the 8-ft. model for \$425.

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Hofer firewood marker makes it easy to cut wood into 14, 16 or 18-in. lengths.

Easy Way To Measure Firewood

"The feedback I get is unbelievable," says Benny Hofer, inventor and marketer of the Mingo firewood marker that makes it easy to cut wood into 14, 16 or 18-in. lengths.

Hofer didn't start out to make a marker. After the loss of his oldest son in a car accident, he immersed himself in work, including cutting firewood. One day when he forgot his measuring tape, the idea of a rolling marker came to him.

"I developed a prototype and found a mold builder. A friend in the food drier business helped me get it into production," he says. "It has given me something to do, and because it is all made and assembled here, it creates a few jobs in our town and helps the local economy."

The device is available from Hofer's website for \$29.95. It is also featured in the

Northern Tool Equipment catalog, and Hofer says it will soon be available in other catalogs as well. In addition, he is looking for a distributor to promote it to retail stores.

"Each can of standard surveyor's paint will mark up to 75 cords of wood," says Hofer. "It's 20 times faster than other marking methods and helps you cut firewood precisely, saving unneeded cuts."

While developed for cutting firewood lengths, Hofer says it has also proven valuable to block layers, construction workers and others needing to mark out regular intervals fast.

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