

Simple Bale Flipper Fits New Holland Stacker

When snow fell on a third cutting of 800 hay bales, Steve Kuntz and his son, Mark, spent the evening in their Montana farm shop building an attachment for their New Holland stacker that flips bales over.

"Our prototype worked the first time out," Mark says. The next day Steve used it to flip 50 acres of small square hay bales in less than four hours.

Three years later the father and son have refined the attachment and started the patent process. The technique is simple. The stacker picks up the bale as usual, but instead of bales lining up to be flipped up on the stacker's table, bales move across the machine into a cradle that flips them back onto the ground.

"The biggest factor is that you have to cradle that bale just right, so it flips the right way," Mark explains.

The BaleCroc, as it's called, mounts with two pins on brackets attached to the stacker so it can quickly be removed. The Kuntzes make a variety of brackets to fit different New Holland models. The BaleCroc can be folded and unfolded by a single person in a matter of seconds and when folded only adds about 10 in. to the stacker's width.

Though the bale flipper is heavy duty, one person can lift it. It's best to have two people to mount it, however, Mark says. An angled skid plate prevents the BaleCroc from hooking into the ground.



Attachment fits onto side of New Holland stacker. As bales are picked up, they move across machine into a cradle that flips them back onto the ground.

The Kuntzes manufacture the BaleCroc through their business, Bull Mountain Innovations, Inc. The BaleCroc sells for \$2,950.

To watch the BaleCroc work, check out the video on the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Kuntz, BaleCroc, Bull Mountain Innovations, Inc., Ballantine, Montana (ph 406 665-7852; www.balecroc.com).



Unit spreads compost anywhere from 1/4 in. to 3 in. deep over a 2-ft. width.

First-Of-Its-Kind Compost Spreader

When a landscaper told Daniel Ellsaesser that he needed a spreader that would work with compost, Ellsaesser set out to build one. Eight months later he had a 3 cu. ft. prototype that spread compost as thick or as thinly as desired. It worked equally well with granulated or pelletized material as with traditional compost, as long as the material was no more than 25 percent moisture.

"Compost will bridge in a regular fertilizer spreader and clog up the holes, but our machines have an agitator that shifts material back and forth," says son Richard Ellsaesser, vice president of marketing for Knee Deep, Inc., maker of the Bull line of compost spreaders. "They'll spread compost 1/4 in. to 3 in. deep. With their 2-ft. width, they'll cover 360 sq. ft., 1/2 in. deep in 45 seconds."

The Ellsaessers quickly realized the original 3-cu. ft. Little Bull Push spreader (\$975) would empty too quickly for commercial operators. They added a 6-cu. ft. Motorized Little Bull (\$2,950), walk-behind 10 cu. ft. Little Bull Pull Model (\$2,150), and 30 cu. ft. Big Bull Pull Model (\$3,850). All are shipped direct from the factory in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area.

Landscapers tell the Ellsaessers it normally takes four men four hours to spread compost by hand on an average lawn. With a Big Bull they can do the same amount of work with two men in one hour.

"People we've dealt with see a good profit if they can get the job done that quickly," says Richard.

The Ellsaessers introduced their compost spreaders at the right time in their home state



Compost spreader has a built-in agitator that shifts material back and forth to avoid clogging up the holes.

of Texas. The city of San Antonio offers homeowners and others a discount on their water bills if they use organic products on their lawns because lawns treated with compost instead of synthetic fertilizers generally need significantly less water.

"In our neck of the woods, things are going organic," says Richard. "The city of Austin is going green, too, and a lot of lawn care customers are calling for organics."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel Ellsaesser, Knee Deep, Inc., 6833 Old Mill Rd., Fort Worth, Texas 76180 (ph 817 658-6615; fax 817 281-4831; kneedeepinc@yahoo.com; www.bullspreader.com).



Povlis's loader tractor uses a 6-WD Army truck frame and running gear as the base.

"Made It Myself" Loader Tractor

When Steve Povlis needs a front-end loader, he just heads out to the shop and makes one. He built his current machine eight years ago and says it works great, according to his son Gary.

"Dad is 85 now. I helped with a lot of the welding on this loader but it was his project," says Gary. "He pulls together parts from all over and then starts building."

An old 6-WD Army truck frame and running gear provided the base. Gary says it was cut down in length and one axle cut away to shorten it for a better turning radius. It's powered by a 1969 Chevy 350 with a 400 Turbo automatic transmission. "We took a gear box off a VW rear axle and used it to reverse the engine output," says Gary. "We have three speeds forward and one reverse, even though the direction of the truck was reversed."

A factory-installed transfer case on the Army truck was kept in the new drive train. It provides low and high range in all four gears, 2-WD and 4-WD. Chopping the frame resulted in short drive shafts running at steep angles, but Gary notes they still worked fine.

"With the automatic transmission, we can creep up on things or roll down the highway at 35 miles an hour," he says.

To provide stability and eliminate sway, springs over the rear axle were stripped away, and the axle was attached directly to the frame.

To ensure traction, the rear axle was locked. Hub covers were pulled off, and a cover was made to enclose the spider gears. Molten aluminum was poured in to lock them in place.

"Without locking the axle, the wheel with the least amount of weight would spin free," explains Gary. "Locking them gives it tremendous pulling power in the mud."

Hydraulic power is provided by a live pump mounted to the Chevy engine crankshaft. It provides 2,000 psi and enough lift to pick a full size car off a truck and set it on



Tractor is powered by a 1969 Chevy 350 with a 400 Turbo automatic transmission. It has three speeds forward, one reverse.

the ground.

The simple driver's compartment has gauges for temperature and oil pressure with idiot lights for charging and overheating. A sheet of Plexiglas is hinged to the cab roof and drops down in cold weather to serve as a windbreak.

Driver comfort in cold weather is provided by a small heater mounted under the seat. A bypass with a shut-off valve circulates hot engine coolant under the driver's feet. When the weather is warm, the operator simply shuts off the valve.

The loader arms were fabricated from an old truck frame. Lift cylinders and reach cylinders to tilt the bucket were recycled from an old utility line truck with a bucket arm. The bucket can be raised 13 to 14 ft. off the ground.

A large battery from a semi is mounted on the rear turning axle along with railroad tie bars to counter balance the loader. Two additional batteries are mounted over the drive axle. Lots of battery power ensures quick starts even on the coldest winter day.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Povlis, 1120 Sill Rd., Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 (ph 440 998-4834; garyleadog@msn.com).