Accumulator is open on front and divided into four compartments. Each compartment can hold two bales.

Skid Loader-Mounted Hay Accumulator

"It has no moving parts on it so there's nothing to tear up or get out of adjustment," says Len Cagle, Canton, Georgia, about his new hay accumulator that's designed to mount on front of any skid loader or tractor.

The patent pending "Out-Front" hay accumulator handles 8 to 10 small square bales of hay. Made from rectangular tubing, the unit is open on front and is divided into four compartments. Each compartment can hold two bales. To load bales, the operator simply lines up with a bale as he drives forward. Once all four compartments are full, two more bales can be added to form a tie stack by bumping one end of each bale with the unit's center divider, which causes the bale to turn sideways. The operator simply backs up to unload the stack.

To pick up the bales, Cagle offers a quick-tach, loader-mounted bale grabber.

"I came up with the idea because I'm in the custom hay making business and was looking for something better," says Cagle. "Most commercial accumulators are designed to pull behind a baler or tractor, but with my machine you never have to look back. Also, it maneuvers better on rolling ground and in thick hay. Pull-type accumulators don't work well if the hay is too thick and the bales too close together, because there isn't enough time for the different bale-loading mechanisms to work properly. That can cause the machine to plug up, and then you have to stop and straighten the bales out.

Grapple makes "accumulated" bales easy to handle.

"Pull-type accumulators have spring-loaded gates which often don't work well on hillsides. The springs get out of adjustment because the weight of the gate is pulling one way or the other which affects how well the gate works. And pull-type accumulators can slow the baler down so much that it's hardly worth using them. You can buy ground-driven models designed to pull behind a tractor but they have problems, too. They can be too wide for transport, and they also don't work well on steep ground."

Another advantage of the simple design, says Cagle, is a less expensive price tag. "It sells for about $3,000 compared to $6,000 or more for pull-type models," he notes.

The bale grabber also sells for $3,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Len Cagle, 1463 Curtis Road, Canton, Georgia. 30115 (ph 770 377-4158; ltcagle@alltel.net; www.out-fronthay.com).

The 3-pt. mounted "Golden Retriever" uses rubber tires to push 30-ft. sections of pipe into field at beginning of growing season, then pulls it back out later.

Rotating Tires Pull, Push Irrigation Pipe

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

I did a double take when I walked by this machine at the World Ag Expo in Tulare, Calif. I'd never seen anything like it.

Inventor Paul Burkner of Lodi, Calif., told me the 3-pt. mounted "Golden Retriever" was designed specifically to handle "Certaloc" irrigation pipe, using rubber tires to push 30-ft. sections of pipe out into the field at the beginning of the growing season and then pulling it back out at the end. The unit can handle pipe ranging in size from 3 to 12 in. in diameter.

Four pairs of hydraulic-powered tires grab the pipe sections which roll on top of four idler wheels. Each driven tire is operated by a separate hydraulic motor.

"There's never been anything like it. It lets you move up to 2,000 ft. of 3-in. dia. lateral pipe with the risers attached, or up to 500 ft. of 12-in. dia. main pipe," says Burkner. "And, you can move the pipe in either direction. You can push 500 ft. of pipe one way, and then 500 ft. the other way without ever having to move the machine. Coupling and moving a 30-ft. pipe section takes only about 15 seconds.

"People are amazed that this machine can move heavy pipe such a long ways down the field. The secret is that the hydraulic motors have a lot of torque and squeeze against the pipe to get a good grip. The machine is quite heavy so it takes a 50 hp or larger tractor to operate it."

Four pairs of hydraulic-powered tires grab pipe sections, which roll on top of idler wheels. Each driven tire is operated by a separate hydraulic motor.

There are two sets of valve controls, one for pushing the pipe and one for retrieving it. Each set has control levers for gripping the tires to the pipe and also for moving the pipe forward.

The machine sells for about $30,000. "Several large California vegetable growers are already using the machine, including Grimway Farms (carrots) and Drisco Farms (strawberries). Some irrigation companies have bought units and rent them out to smaller farmers," notes Burkner.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Burkner, Ag Industrial Mfg., 110 S. Beckman Rd., Lodi, Calif. 95240 (ph 800 700-2461 or 209 369-1994; fax 209 333-0736; pburkner@agindustrialmfg.com; www.agindustrialmanufacturing.com).

Air is pulled into tank through Drierite vent dryer, which is filled with a material that sucks moisture from air. Filter can be adapted to any fuel tank.

Air Dryer Keeps Water Out Of Fuel

The Drierite Company makes filters designed to pull moisture from the air as it's sucked into fuel tanks, keeping water out of fuel.

The filters are available in a variety of styles and simply attach to any air vent so air entering a tank is completely dried. The company says there's a tremendous interest in the filters for biodiesel, preventing biological growth and corrosion. Built-in indicators show at a glance when the filter medium needs replacing. Filters are available for tanks from 50 gal. to 20,000 gal.

The dessicant used in the filters can be regenerated by baking it for one hour.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, W.A. Hammond Drierite Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 460, Xenia, Ohio 45385 (ph 937 376-2927; www.drierite.com).

Simply attach vent to air hose. Air is pulled in through holes along bottom. Many different sizes of filters are available.

Easy New Way To Feed A Wood Stove

You don't have to wreck your back to feed a wood stove with big log chunks. The new Log Handler can pick up a big chunk of wood and feed it into a stove, dropping it with the twist of a wrist.

The Log Handler is essentially a mobile lever and fulcrum, fitted with a set of forks at the end (another model has claws).

You just roll a log onto the forks and press down on the handle. The 16-in. dia. wheels make it easy to roll even the heaviest logs around.

"The working height of the log handler can be adjusted from 24 to 36 in. to match the doorway of your wood stove.

Inventor David Troyer designed the unit's main bracket with T-bolts that tighten down on rings inside the bracket. They keep the pipe from slipping through, yet allow it to turn to release the log inside the stove.

While some people prefer the claws, Troyer finds the Log Handler with forks to be easier to use. "The forks connect to the pipe with a hinged bracket that keeps them parallel to the ground at all times whether loading, lifting, moving or dumping," says Troyer.

The Log Handler is priced at $325, while the Log Handler with forks is priced at $299.

"We're looking for dealers, but will also sell direct," says Troyer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dutch Lane Heating & Sales, 8838 Ely Road, Apple Creek, Ohio 44606 (ph 330 465-2347).

Log Handler is designed to feed big log chunks into a wood stove.