

FARM SHOW

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LETS YOU HAUL BALES IN COMFORT Old Car "Hay Hauler"



Schlenker cut the rear end off a 1981 Citation to make a bale mover that lets him and his wife haul bales in comfort. Add-on rear bale lift frame is fitted with wheels mounted on pivoting hub assemblies that lower rear end to the ground to load bales.

By Bill Gergen
Associate Editor

One of the most unusual machines we've ever seen for hauling round bales is this "car hay hauler" built by Iowa farmer Dave Schlenker, who turned a 1981 Chevrolet Citation front wheel drive 4-door hatchback into a self-propelled hay hauler that can pick up and load one round bale at a time.

Schlenker, of Ankeny, paid \$200 for the car and figures he spent about \$500 altogether, including modifications.

"It makes picking up and hauling round bales more of a pleasure than a chore and is easy for my wife to drive. Works so slick that my wife does most of the bale hauling while I do the baling," says Schlenker, a dairy producer who built the unit with the help of neighbor Earl Lagerquist.

Schlenker cut off the rear half of the car right behind the front doors. The front "cab" was then sealed off by installing the hatchback rear window on back for wide open visibility. He also mounted a 16-gal. gas tank directly behind the car's front end.

To haul bales, Schlenker made a lift cradle by welding a 6-ft. long piece of 4-in. sq. steel tubing to the back of rocker panels on either side of the car, with a pair of 5-ft. long, 2 by 4-in. lengths of square tubing between and below them to slip under the bale. A pair of 15-in. tires off a 1976 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup are mounted on pivoting hub assemblies that attach to the bale

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