BioBaler Cuts, Mulches And Bales “Waste” Wood

BioBaler

Brush, branches and forest undergrowth have always been treated as a waste product in years past. You can turn those products into a valuable resource to create heat and energy with a new biomass baler that will cut, mulch and bale in one pass.

The WB55-BioBaler is set to hit the U.S. market the end of this year, according to Tom King, president of SUPERTRAK, Inc., the U.S. distributor for the Canadian-built machine.

Pine, willow and poplar trees up to 6 in. dia. and 25 ft. tall — are reduced to strips no bigger than 2 by 12 in. after being cut and mulched by the powerful baler. Yet the baler is small enough to pull through 12-ft. openings, powered by a 150 to 200 hp farm tractor.

The baler has a 48-fixed tooth rotor and a 48-tooth rotor that chops a 7 1/2-ft. wide swath through heavy brush. The 4 by 4-ft. compacted and netted bales are easy to handle and load for transportation by tractors with hay spikes.

King says the baler offers a secondary source of income on timber land because undergrowth can be baled every few years and sold.

Another option is to plant fast-growing woody crops such as willows and harvest them annually. A new federal program, the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, matches up to $45/dry ton to stimulate biomass energy projects. King adds there are opportunities with a host of agencies including the Forest Service, and Departments of Transportation and utility companies that need right-of-ways cleared.

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Bill Snodgrass, Casper, Wyo., uses a toy ball as a “pig” to clean mud and sand out of gated irrigation pipe.

“While the water is running full bore and the far end of the pipeline is open, he inserts the ball into the inlet of the pipeline.” he says.

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