



Chuck Misek wanted an easier way to move big round bales. So he converted an old Deere 6600 combine. It can move two bales at a time.

Double forks that replaced header were made with 1/2-in. steel.

Deere Combine Moves Two Bales At Once

Chuck Misek used to dread the task of moving big round hay bales. Then he started using a combine to move them and suddenly the job became fun.

"I'm getting older so it was becoming harder to turn around and pick them up with a 3-pt. mounted bale fork," the Schuyler, Neb., farmer explains. "I wanted to figure out an easier way. I had an unused Deere 6600 that my wife wanted me to get rid of. I loved that old combine and didn't want to take it to the bone yard."

Misek convinced a friend to build double

forks out of 1/2-in. steel. He removed the combine header and used part of it to weld a frame to hold the tines, which are bolted on.

The sets of tines are spaced far enough apart to pick up the bales easily and set them down with a space between them.

"You don't even have to stop to pick the bales up," Misek says. "I never have to look back. It cuts my time in half, and I enjoy doing it."

He bales between 550 and 600 bales a year. Before he kept the bales on the field as long as he could, with the combine he

moves them right away. The job is also more comfortable because of the air-conditioned cab.

Misek's wife, Glenetta, doesn't bug him to get rid of the combine any more. "She says now I'm civil after moving bales," Misek laughs. He estimates he spent about \$200 on the combine makeover.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chuck Misek, 1449 Rd. D, Schuyler, Neb. 68661 (402 352-3649; cpmisek@yahoo.com).



"It works much quicker than placing individual tires on a bunk silo," says Irish inventor Liam Murohy, who came up with a way to fasten tires together into large mats.

"Tire Machine" Makes Silo Covering Easy

Instead of laying tires on bunk silos one at a time, Irish inventor Liam Murohy came up with a way to fasten tires together into large mats.

Key to the idea is a machine designed to bolt tires together in groups of 18 or more. A front-end loader equipped with a pair of extension forks is then used to place the tires on top of bunker silos.

It works much quicker than placing individual tires, says Murohy.

The mats are made using an air drill in a specially-made frame, which shoves a screw through two tires, fastening them together in just seconds. Murohy makes three mats at a time, sorting tires into roughly comparable sizes, so that wide, high profile tires go together in one group, 13-in. tires in another group, and so forth. The trick is to make the mats the right size for the loader that's handling them.

Special rustless bolts are used to bolt the

tires together. Murohy sells the fastening tool and also hires it out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Liam Murohy, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland (ph 011 353 568833458 or Drew Vaughan, Camp View House, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland (ph 011 353 877787199).

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