

Plugged Balers Are No Match For ‘Hay Anchor’

Gackle, N. Dak. farmer Roger Gutschmidt recently decided to eliminate one of the most annoying jobs in farming by designing a new tool called the ‘Hay Anchor’.

Gutschmidt says his stress level is down considerably, thanks to the device which takes the misery out of clearing a round baler that’s become plugged with hay.

‘We’ve all done this at one time or another when using our round balers,’ he explains. ‘I was baling hay late one night when the hay became damp and a bunch of the wet hay suddenly plugged the pickup. I tried to dislodge it by feeding more hay into the baler, since this sometimes works, but it didn’t help, and instead made things worse. Pretty soon I had a pickup that wouldn’t turn. All you can do when this happens is pull the hay out, stem by stem, which usually takes an hour or more, and can involve a lot of swearing and frustration.’

Gutschmidt’s Hay Anchor makes the job a lot easier.

The tool consists of 5/8-in. cold-rolled rod, bent to an ‘anchor’ shape. One long end of the rod has coarse threads sharpened to a point, so it easily pushes into the blockage of hay in the pickup.

‘Once you have it where you want it, you simply screw the eye bolt onto the end and hook a come-along between the eye bolt and the tractor draw bar,’ he says. ‘The slug comes right out of the baler effortlessly. No more skinned fingers and broken fingernails from endless pulling of hay. I can pull the most stubborn clumps of hay out of my baler in less than 5 minutes.’



Sharp end of anchor is pushed into hay plug, then extension and eye bolt are screwed on.

Gutschmidt also made an optional extension for the device, which can be needed when the slug is overly large.

Sells for \$95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gutschmidt Manufacturing LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).



Contractor



Single



Double



Grapple Rake

‘Add-A-Grapple’ Fits Any Loader Bucket

‘Our new add-on grapple fork fits any loader bucket. It’s great for removing brush, debris, and other hard-to-handle material. It can quickly be removed, allowing you to use the bucket for other jobs,’ says Bill Reed, Precision Mfg., Sedalia, Mo.

The grapple fork comes with a telescoping mounting frame that attaches to each side of the bucket with four bolts. You can fit it with a single or double grapple.

The grapple can be quickly detached from the mounting frame by removing a couple of hitch pins.

‘The grapple fork has curved teeth for a wider grip and easy release,’ says Reed. ‘If

you’re just picking up some logs a single grapple is all you need. However, if you want to pick up loose brush or restack loose hay, you’ll want a double grapple because it can grab more material,’ he notes. A grapple rake is now available. Light enough for a utility tractor yet strong enough for a skid steer. A family of grapple rakes have been added to fit tractors and skid steers of all sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Precision Mfg., 424 N. Harding Ave., Sedalia, Mo. 65301 (ph 888 497-3224 or 660 827-6131; breed@precisionmfg.com; www.precisionmfg.com).

Reader Inquiry No.45

Simple Stand Empties Spray Jugs

During spraying season, emptying out chemical jugs and triple rinsing them can be a frustratingly slow job.

‘My sprayer manufacturer sells an option for rinsing jugs, but it costs \$1,000, which is more than I want to spend,’ says Roger Gutschmidt of Gackle, N. Dak., ‘Besides, when you use their system, you need to have the sprayer pump and agitation system running, and that produces a lot of foam that needs to be expelled from the tank once it’s full.’

Gutschmidt chose to design his own simple device to ensure that chemical jugs empty completely without taking up much of his time. Although his solution doesn’t actually rinse out the jugs, it does make sure that every last drop makes it into the sprayer.

It consists of a 25-in. long, V-shaped trough with four evenly-spaced 19-in. rods welded to the center so they extend upwards. The jugs go over the rods.

The trough mounts on the sprayer at a 45 degree angle, with the bottom resting on the inside edge of the mixing cone. A 1/2-in. pin welded to the upper end of the trough goes through a hole drilled in a bracket on the sprayer frame. A cotter pin and compression spring hold it in place.

‘When it’s not in use, it pivots out of the way so the lid on top of the cone can be closed,’ Gutschmidt explains. ‘By leaving

the jugs upside down for 5 to 10 minutes, almost every drop of fluid drains out. At spraying time, I don’t have time to triple rinse, so just getting the jugs drained completely is enough for me. When I’m finished draining my jugs, I pour clean water down the trough to rinse it out so dirt doesn’t stick to chemical residue left behind. It works great. I wish I would’ve had this invention years ago.’

Sells for \$150 plus S&H.

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