



Gene Twiford converted a New Idea Uni Harvester into this self-propelled, "up front" round bale loader.

## Self-Propelled "Up Front" Bale Hauler

Gene Twiford wanted a bale-hauling machine that wouldn't cost much yet had a lot of capacity. So the Laurel, Neb., custom hay grower converted an old New Idea Uni Harvester into a self-propelled round bale loader.

The Uni Harvester is equipped with a side-mounted, hydraulic-operated, 40-ft. long Kraemer trailer equipped with a U-shaped bale-loading arm that lifts the bale onto the trailer. It lets Twiford load, haul and unload 8 round bales about twice as fast as he could with a tractor and flatbed.

"I paid \$4,000 for the Uni Harvester and \$6,500 for the Kraemer self-loading bale trailer. My total was about \$11,000," says Twiford.

"It's much more convenient to use than pull-type bale haulers because it's so maneuverable and gives me a great view in front. Before I built this unit, I used trucks and loader tractors to haul round bales. This machine is a lot faster."

Twiford used steel tubing to beef up the combine frame and made mounting brackets next to the drive axle. He extended the axle on the right side of the combine to make more room for the trailer. And he removed the combine's gearbox and mounted a hydraulic pump on the engine crankshaft.



Side-mounted, 40-ft. long "trailer" is equipped with a hydraulic-operated, U-shaped bale-loading arm. A cylinder lifts front end to dump all bales at once.

He bought a new Kraemer trailer minus the wheels and mounted three caster wheels (off an old fertilizer spreader) on front. He had the company mount the loading arms on the other side. He also used heavy angle iron to beef up the trailer frame.

The trailer's hydraulic-operated, U-shaped arm swings upward to place the bale on the trailer. To make room for the next bale, a pair of chains moves the bale toward the rear of the trailer. A hydraulic cylinder raises the trailer to unload all the bales at once off the back.

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Axle on right side of combine was extended to make more room for trailer.

## Weed Eater Carrier For Garden Tractors

Whenever Pete Peters mows his lawn he always has his Echo gas-powered weed eater right with him, thanks to the homemade carrier he mounted on his Deere 102 lawn tractor.

The carrier mounts just behind the tractor's seat and can be installed or removed in just a few seconds. It consists of a 3 1/2-ft. length of sq. tubing with a hook welded onto it near the top that supports the weed eater handle. Some metal straps are welded on farther down to keep the weed eater shaft from swinging back and forth. The sq. tubing is held secure by a pair of welded-on, twisted straps that bolt into existing holes in the tractor's rear fender.

"It eliminates the need to run back and forth to get the weed eater," says Peters.

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Homemade weed eater carrier mounts just behind lawn tractor's seat and is always there when Peters needs it.



Due to renewed interest from organic farmers and others, Dan Bourquin has updated the Bourquin weed puller and put it back on the market. Photo shows original unit.

## "Cultivator" Uses Rubber Tires To Pull Weeds

In 1978 FARM SHOW published a story on the Bourquin weed puller, a mechanical weed puller that used rubber tires to pull tall-growing weeds from low growing crops (Vol. 2, No. 1). The machine went out of production in the 1980's when Monsanto started promoting weed wiper machines to apply Roundup.

Inventor Dan Bourquin recently called FARM SHOW to say that, due to renewed interest from organic farmers, he has updated the machine and put it back on the market.

"We've been getting phone calls from growers who can't use herbicides but have to grow a crop that's as weed-free as possible. An organic farmer recently called us after an inspector told him there were too many weeds in his crop. It was too late to use our machine so he had to destroy the crop. If he'd have called us sooner we could probably have saved the crop."

"Another factor is the trend to growing Roundup Ready soybeans after Roundup Ready corn, which can result in a lot of Roundup Ready volunteer corn. Our weed puller is really good at taking that volunteer corn out. It also works great for sugar beets, vegetables, low lying soybeans, Spanish peanuts, and more," says Bourquin.

The machine is designed to brush along the top of the crop to remove tall weeds in the row. A series of rubber wheels, which are driven hydraulically, rotate against each other, grabbing weeds which extend above the crop row and yanking them out of the ground.

The unit can be front or rear-mounted and can be used by itself or mounted on a cultivator, tilling the soil and pulling the weeds in a single operation.

The original machine used rubber-tired wheels only, but the new machine combines rubber-tired wheel with a metal roller that's



Prototype of new unit alternates steel drums with rubber tires.

covered by a rubber mesh material.

"In extremely wet conditions the rubber wheels got wet and could slip. The mesh material prevents that from happening," says Bourquin.

The wheels on the original machine ran at 160 rpm's, but on the new machine they run at only 20 to 30 rpm's. "The slower rotation helps the wheels grab the weed better, and then the forward motion of the tractor pulls it out," says Bourquin.

Farmers using herbicides may only need the machine in a crisis, when a breakdown of herbicide occurs, says Bourquin. "The machine won't always get 100 percent of the weeds but it'll get most of them."

The weed puller is available in 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12-row models. It requires a tractor hydraulic system with at least 2,000 lbs. of pressure.

The Bourquin Weed Puller sells for \$1,750 per row.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bourquin's Farm Mkt. & Trading Co., Inc., 155 East Willow, Colby, Kan. 67701 (ph 785 462-3300 or cell 785 443-2774; office@colbycamp.com; www.organicweedpuller.com).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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