



## “Best Hunting Dog You’ve Never Heard Of”

When FARM SHOW editors saw the above headline recently in a magazine ad we decided to check out their website and talk to a breeder. It turns out none of us had ever heard of the dog breed known as Deutscher Wachtelhund, and we wanted to find out what we’d been missing.

We connected with Dave Pepe, a Deutscher Wachtelhund breeder from Pelican Lake, Wis. Pepe is an Air Force veteran who learned of the Wachtelhund breed while he was stationed in Germany in the 1980’s. He bought a Wachtelhund pup in 1991 and brought his first pair of Wachtelhunds to the U.S. in 1993. In subsequent years, he became a recognized Wachtelhund breeder and worked with a Canadian breeder to gain UKC recognition for the Wachtelhund. He also established Deutscher Wachtelhund of North America (DWNA). He is currently the DWNA Chairman.

Pepe told us that Wachtelhunds originated in Germany in the 1700’s. The Wachtelhund is a medium-sized dog 17 to 21 1/2 in. tall and 48 to 64 lbs. at maturity. Animals are either dark brown or brown ticked with white, with colorations ranging from blond to red. They show extraordinary hunting and tracking abilities and have a vibrant and friendly personality.

“Less than 10 percent of the people in Germany know of the Wachtelhund, and fewer in North America,” Pepe says. “It lacks notoriety because it’s sold only to hunters. In Germany, owners are avid hunters, professional hunters or gamekeepers.”



Loader-mounted “Accumagrapple” gathers up 8 to 10 small square bales in the field. Once the bales are gathered together, they can be loaded onto a truck or trailer, with the same piece of equipment.



## Loader-Mounted Bale Accumulator Doubles As Grapple

“Our new Accumagrapple is a loader-mounted bale accumulator and grapple fork in one. It lets you gather bales in the field, load them onto a trailer or truck, and unload them using the same piece of equipment,” says Larry Jordan, national sales manager for Maxilator Hay Equipment, Rockmart, Ga.

The patent-pending Accumagrapple is designed to mount on front of any skid loader or tractor loader and handles 8 to 10 small square bales of hay at a time. Bale size can vary from 36 to 42 in.

Made from rectangular tubing, the unit is open on front and divided into 4 compartments. To load bales, the operator lines up with a bale as he drives forward. Once all 4 compartments are full, 2 more bales can be added to form a tie stack by bumping one end of each bale with the unit’s center

divider, which causes the bale to turn sideways. The operator simply backs up to leave the stack laying in the field.

By removing the accumulator’s divider plates and bars, it quickly converts to a grapple fork for off loading and stacking of bales. The grapple can be used right handed or left handed, depending on which side of the trailer you unload from.

“Using one piece of equipment to pick up, load and unload hay just makes sense. You spend less time and use less fuel and labor to get the job done,” says Jordan.

The Accumagrapple Elite has a manufacturer’s suggested list price of \$5,700.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Maxilator, 17 Rice Rd, Rockmart, Ga. 30153 (ph 903 818-6427; ljordan@maxilator.com; www.maxilator.com).

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The breed now has 8 registered kennels, 6 active breeders and about 300 registered dogs in the U.S.

Pepe told us that DWNA is affiliated with the parent breed organization, VDW, in Germany. It’s committed to the integrity of performance testing through hunt tests. Each spring and fall the DWNA has hunt tests where dogs must meet minimum requirements for breeding.

Pepe says, “there are stringent rules, 67 pages for the 4 performance tests. Each test has 3 judges from outside the DWNA, 1 VDW and 2 JGHV-USA judges. The Wachtelhund is judged on a 165-yard feathered drag and retrieve and a 367-yard rabbit drag and retrieve. Also in the test are a duck flush and retrieve in marsh grass and a 400 meter blood trailing test. Wachtelhunds must achieve a certain proficiency to be breedable.

Pepe says the DWNA organization is committed to a heritage of testing and breeding. “Our breeding rules are 18 pages, and breeders must meet strict standards,” he says. “Our goal is to maintain standards of quality and assure the owner they’re getting an extraordinary hunting dog and a wonderful family pet.”

Wachtelhund puppies generally cost about \$1,000 and most new owners spend more to train and test their dog for hunting or breeding. “The best part of owning a Wachtelhund is that they’re born to hunt and to love people,” Pepe says. “Our motto is ‘bred by hunters for hunters.’”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Pepe, 160 Max Rd., Pelican Lake, Wis. 54463 (ph 715 487-4024; dave@deutscherwachtelhund.org; www.deutscherwachtelhund.org).