



Wagon has angle iron ladder steps and front handholds on both sides, allowing the person stacking bales to stand safely at front of wagon as it lurches across the field.



At 21 ft. long, the triple axle wagon is about 4 ft. longer and 1 ft. wider than most hay wagons and can load about 25 more bales.

He Says He Built A Better Hay Wagon

Bryan Glett, Bellefontaine, Ohio, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a 21-ft. long, 8-ft. wide triple-axle hay wagon he built out of an old 31-ft. travel trailer frame. The high capacity wagon is longer and wider than most hay wagons, and has several built-in safety features.

"I got the idea after I took over our rented-out family farm and started farming as a new career in 2008, at age 54, after my dad passed away and my agronomist son finished his graduate work," says Glett. "I hadn't done any farming for nearly 40 years. I had to buy or build all the equipment I needed to start over as a medium-sized organic farmer, so I essentially had a clean slate when building the wagon.

"Being gone from farming for so long, I had a pent-up desire to fix the unsafe and limiting things about most hay wagons in use on farms. I tried to incorporate all the improvements I had stored away in the back of my mind."

He got the double axle trailer frame at a local scrap yard. He cut about 10 ft. off the frame behind the rear axles, then flipped them over to set the wagon about 1 ft. higher

off the ground. He also welded an extra steel beam down the center of the trailer for reinforcement.

The main safety improvement was to weld strong front handholds onto both sides of the wagon, which allows the person stacking bales to stand safely right at the front of the wagon as it lurches and pitches across the field. "Surviving a fall off the front of a loaded hay wagon often depends on the tractor driver seeing you – something I didn't want to count on," says Glett.

The handholds are off junked-out factory "dock carts" often found at big box lumber stores. Glett welded a pair of angle iron ladder steps onto the wagon's frame next to the handholds. "The steps make it easier to climb off and on a moving wagon to deal with mis-tied bales and the like," he says.

The 8-ft. wide wagon is about 1 ft. wider than most conventional wagons. "The extra width means I can stack bales entirely within the wagon's sides," says Glett. "I never liked bales hanging over the sides because it forces you to compromise stack interlocking, and that contributes to unstable loads."

The wider base also makes the wagon more



"The extra width and wood rails mean I can stack bales entirely within the wagon's sides for more stable loads," says Bryan Glett.

stable, and the side gates further stabilize the load. They're made from treated deck lumber and set inside stake pockets.

"I'm very happy with how it turned out," says Glett. "I had a lot of help from my son, who recently completed his university graduate work in agronomy, and from two mechanical engineers in the family. The 21-ft. wagon is about 4 ft. longer than most hay wagons and can load about 25 more bales. The distance between the wagon's front-most rear axle and the steering axle isn't that different from a regular wagon, so there isn't much difference in the turning radius.

"A big advantage of the handholds is that I don't have to wear out my 'sea legs' trying to keep balanced, and hopping off and on the wagon is safer and almost fun! The handholds don't interfere with the operation or stacking capacity at all.

"Now I can have friends and family help when baling without worrying as much about their safety or stacking ability."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bryan Glett, 2647 C.R. 13, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311 (ph 937 599-1188; sbglett@embarqmail.com).

Curved plastic floor liner is designed to extend the life of Kinze and Killbros round bottom grain carts equipped with horizontal augers.



Plastic Liners For Grain Cart Auger Tubes

You can extend the life of Kinze and Killbros grain carts that have horizontal augers by installing floor liners from Lundell Plastics Corp. The new ExoPlate liners are specifically designed for the round bottom carts.

"The steel floors on Killbros and Kinze grain carts with horizontal augers tend to wear more," explains Vance Lundell, Lundell Plastics Corp. "Most grain carts have vertical augers, but the horizontal augers rub the grain against the curved trough."

Lundell's solution is a curved liner made from UHMW polyethylene. The alternative, he notes, is to patch the steel.

"The liner is easier to install and will last longer than a steel patch," says Lundell. Liners range from \$150 to \$750, depending

on cart size, auger length and area to be covered.

While the curved liner is designed to meet the needs of Kinze and Killbros grain carts, Lundell stresses that the company is ready to custom design solutions for other problems as well.

"We do lots of custom work," says Lundell. "If you have a problem, give us a call. If it's a piece of equipment, have the brand, model, style and size, and we'll go from there."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lundell Plastics Corp., 400 W. Market St., Odebolt, Iowa 51458 (ph 712 668-2400; toll free 877 367-7659; www.lundellplastics.com).



Trailer frame is set on cement blocks and skirted with lumber to hold dirt, turning it into a raised garden bed.

Raise Your Garden With Trailer Frames

If you have an old trailer frame somewhere on the farm, Rita Sweeney suggests you make it useful by turning it into a raised garden bed. That's what her family did about 8 years ago, and the 87-year-old says it has allowed her to keep gardening.

"I'm able to keep going because the beds are 24 in. off the ground," she says of the two trailer-frame raised beds on her Brimley, Mich., property.

The 4 by 21-ft. and 6 by 21-ft. frames are set on cement blocks and skirted with lumber to hold good black dirt. Being off the ground warms the soil faster, which is helpful with

the short growing season in Michigan's upper peninsula.

"They produce real well," Sweeney says. "I just walk around them weeding or picking veggies, strawberries and flowers. I plan to garden as long as I can."

She notes her raised beds attracted local media attention. That's what made her want to share it with other FARM SHOW readers.

"There are lots of trailer frames available, and they will never rot," she says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rita Sweeney, Brimley, Mich.