

TiltSpear Speeds Up Bale Retrieval

With his patented TiltSpear double bale spear, Kyle Meyer says he can move bales 25 percent faster than with a conventional double spear.

"I don't have to stop, set one bale down, and stab both bales at the same time," explains the Holstein, Iowa, inventor. The hydraulic tilt on his loader allows him to pick up a bale, drive to the next bale, tilt the bale in the air to lower the other spear and stab a second bale.

"It makes a huge difference. It's one of those things that is hard to explain how much time it saves you," he says. "But once someone tries it, they won't give it up."

He sells the unit for \$3,990. Built with 1/4-in., 4-in. tubing for the frame, the standard

size tines are rated at 3,800 lbs. The TiltSpear weighs about 600 lbs. and will accept any style loader coupler.

"Making the front and back frames rotate was a little challenging so that they would tilt and still have support. They needed to be both strong and capable of rotating," he says.

After working with his invention for a few years, he started marketing it seriously last year through AgVentive, an Iowa company he cofounded that offers innovative equipment solutions. Information and a video is available on the business's website.

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Kyle Meyer says he can move bales much faster with his tilting double bale spear than with a conventional double spear. "I don't have to stop and set one bale down before I stab the second bale," he says.

Teen Designed Triple Calf Feeder

Samuel Thompson, 20, feeds three calves in the same amount of time it takes to feed one with his triple calf feeder. His design also ensures that each calf gets an equal share and that the feeder can be easily and thoroughly cleaned.

Thompson, of Rushville, N.Y., came up with the idea when he was 18 and had a full time job and calves to feed before and after work. He didn't like commercially-available multiple feeding units because they could clog easily. Using the basic idea, he decided to use pvc sewer pipe – a T, two 45-degree sections and three ends. He also cut the edges off two caps that fit inside the pvc to create half walls to hold a quart of milk in each of the 45-degree sections.

He also cut out the ends to insert Peach Teats calf nipples that have threads.

"They are threaded so they reseal each time," Thompson says. "I wanted to be able to unscrew the ends to wash them out."

For easy filling, he added a funnel by drilling a hole in the pvc T for a screw-in fitting. The funnel is plastic welded to the inside of the fitting. He also added a couple of vents for good airflow.

Thompson secured the feeder on a wooden shelf with iron strapping. Three calves sucking at once make it difficult to hold by hand.

He runs water through the unit after every feeding and takes it apart a couple times a week to clean it thoroughly in water with bleach.

The feeder works well on the calves right up to weaning, says Thompson, who buys calves in groups of three to raise and sell.



Samuel Thompson can feed three calves in the same amount of time it takes to feed one with his triple calf feeder. Each pvc section holds a quart of milk.

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Stylish LED grills from MFI Products are intended for off-road and poorly lit roads. Photo shows a Chevy LED full grill with a 20-in. double row of Totron CREE LED lights.

LED Grills Light Up A Truck – And The Road

Nothing has ever dressed up a pickup like these LED grills from MFI Products. You can pick from a variety of styles, custom design your own, or order LED light bars and make your own.

"We can do almost anything using different LED light configurations, multiple mesh options, bolts, colors and finishes," says Brand Metzger, MFI Products.

Metzger emphasizes that the stylish grills are also very functional. "They are intended for off-road and poorly lit roads," he says. "While supplemental to the factory installed lights, on average they will provide 500 yards of illumination."

All MFI truck grills are produced with 1/8-in. stainless steel frames and 304 stainless steel woven mesh. Brackets and light mounts are precision TIG welded. The company

uses stainless steel fasteners and what they describe as powder coating that is "superior to other automotive finishes."

Grills are produced for Chevy, Ford, Jeep, Dodge, GMC and Toyota trucks as well as Polaris RZR's. The Chevy LED full grill has a 20-in. double row of Totron CREE LEDs and sells for \$1,049. The MFI Lower LED grill for 2010 to 2015 Ram 2500 and 3500 features 8 2x2 Totron LEDs and sells for \$699. A Totron 12-in., dual row, 72-watt CREE light bar (combo or spot) is priced at \$239.99.

Customized grills usually cost 15 to 20 percent more.

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Hagie Mfg.'s Commodity Delivery System lets you seed cover crops into standing corn and also apply pre-tassel or late season nitrogen.

New Dry Application System Gives Big Sprayers More Work

Fennig Equipment has joined with Hagie Manufacturing to produce the Hagie Commodity Delivery System (CDS) for seeding cover crops and applying dry fertilizer or granular nutrients. The application system is compatible with 2007 model year and newer Hagie STS series self-propelled sprayers.

Adam Fennig says the CDS has a 140 cu. ft. pressurized poly tank that can carry about 3 tons of dry fertilizer. Weight of other products in a full tank would vary. The tank is pressurized and dry material moves through a 6-outlet stainless steel metering system via hoses that supply drop nozzles on a 90-ft. boom.

Hagie Mfg. says the CDS can apply 100 lbs. of cereal rye seed at 8 mph, 120 lbs of Potash/MAP at 7 mph, and 20 lbs. of annual ryegrass at 14 mph. The CDS has a section control meter and drop applicators to extend down between rows of tall row crops. An onboard scale can be upgraded to an ISO interface. Equipped with air cylinders that

hook in with precision rate controllers, the CDS also allows growers to use sectional control.

Fennig says that as more farmers plant cover crops, there's always a struggle to get them seeded in a timely fashion. The CDS can seed into standing corn in August, so the cover crop starts growing well before harvest. The system can also apply pre-tassel or late season nitrogen, making more efficient use of big self-propelled sprayers.

Hagie says the STS can be optioned with Hagie's tall corn package that includes front shielding, under frame covers, wheel covers and crop dividers. Using this equipment results in less crop damage and added protection for the machine.

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