

Manure Spreader Converted To Big Square Bale Feeder

When Richard Haskin's source for horse hay switched to large square bales, he needed a different feeder. An old manure spreader turned out to be the perfect size.

Haskin removed the spreader's beater, gearbox and apron, then used the apron shaft to mount a homemade back gate.

"I put three 4-in. landscape timbers across the bottom of the spreader so hay doesn't sit in water when it rains," he notes.

His brother, who collects and sells scrap metal, had old school bleachers. Haskins used six of the ends to create sides. Five are bolted securely. One in the center slips in a 3/8-in. bolt and can be easily removed to create a

big enough opening for his loader to drop in a square bale.

"The sides stop the horses from dragging out the hay. There is very little waste," Haskin says.

With 15-in. tires, the height is ideal for the horses, and he can move the feeder if he needs to. A jack on the hitch holds the feeder level and secure.

"It's worked great for my horses for about six years," Haskins said. "It would work for other livestock, too."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Haskin, 62134 205th Ave., Dodge Center, Minn. 55972 (ph 507 374-6633).



An old manure spreader works great as a big square bale feeder for Richard Haskin. He added a homemade gate across the back and used bleacher components to make sides.

Home-Built Grapple Made Tough To Do The Job Right

John Betka figures he'll get more years of use out of his \$250 home-built grapple than he would from a \$1,600 grapple. It's already proven to be a useful piece of equipment for moving trees, lifting slash, and transporting boulders around his Walkerville, Montana, property.

"It's strong, works great, and it's on a quick-tach adaptor," Betka says.

He started with a set of forks and built the grapple out of 1018 mild 1/2-in. steel with 3/8-in. steel tubing on the top bar.

"The front and rear arms for the hydraulic cylinder are 1 by 2 1/2-in. steel with 1-in. dia. holes drilled to accommodate the rear cylinder pivot point and the front pivot points, which are adjustable for height and pull," he explains, adding that he reinforced the front and rear of the arms with 90-degree 1 by 2-in. steel. The grapple opens up to 6 ft. vertically to grab a lot of material at a time.

"The hardest part was the hydraulics - getting the cylinder in the right position to lift and drop without too much force and to

set the pressure right," Betka says.

He used a 24-in. long double-acting cylinder with a 3 by 12-in throw and 3,200 psi.

He estimates that the grapple weighs between 400 and 500 lbs., and it works well on his medium-size tractor.

Betka says he will offer advice to anyone interested in making a grapple, and he emphasizes the importance of good welding skills.

"It uses a lot of torque, and therefore it must be welded well and well-reinforced. Otherwise, the operation of the cylinder will pull the front and rear arms right off the cross braces the cylinder is attached to," he says.

With planning and attention to detail, Betka has been pleased with how well it works.

"I made it myself because I like things that work," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Betka, Walkerville, Mont. 59701 (ph 406 490-2980; upskyranch@crbart.com).



John Betka started with a set of forks to build his own quick-tach grapple for only \$250.



Grapple opens up to 6 ft. vertically to grab a lot of material at a time. Front and rear cylinder pivot points are adjustable for height and pull.



Tapered broom's head angles in toward the middle, allowing you to control dirt more easily as you sweep.

Tapered Broom Funnels Dirt Toward The Center

This new "tapered" broom is designed to funnel dirt and debris towards the center into a neat and tidy pile.

The Da Vinci broom head angles in toward the middle, allowing you to control the dirt more easily as you sweep. Equipped with a lightweight metal handle, the broom weighs only about half as much as most other brooms, says the company. It has a low-profile head that can reach under furniture and ledges, and its tapered edges can reach

into corners and along walls. The broom's soft, short bristles collect fine dirt and dust as well as pet hair.

The broom is available in 15-in. (house) and 24-in. (shop) models. The 15-in. model sells for \$15 plus S&H; the 20-in. model for \$20.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Da Vinci Broom, LLC, 710 Franklin Ct., Ardmore, Okla. 73401 (ph 580 224-1424; www.davincibroom.com).

"Mud Spray" Keeps Mud From Sticking

Slipcoat IRC™ is an all-natural, oil based spray that prevents mud and ice from sticking to machines. Farmers, masons, truckers, ATV riders and a host of other consumers appreciate reduced buildup and how easily equipment and vehicles clean up with a quick wash.

Slipcoat IRC is a patented product that has been used in the mining industry for years, says Mike Siebesma, National Sales Manager for Global Barrier Coatings Inc., the California company that manufactures it. Now, its usefulness is being discovered by everyone from ATVs who want to avoid hours of mud cleanup to truckers who want to reduce ice buildup on undercarriages.

"Our product releases the surface tension to prevent sticking," Siebesma says. "But the most important thing is that it's on the USDA BioPreferred list. It's 99.8 percent biodegradable and made from renewable materials, all of which are sourced in the United States.

That makes it safer and more environmentally friendly than petroleum-based products that are often used. Plus, it has a low freezing point - below minus 40 F degrees.

With a viscosity similar to olive oil, Slipcoat IRC is applied with a high-pressure metal sprayer. It also comes in spray cans. A case of 12 15-oz. cans costs \$144, plus shipping. A 5-gal. pail costs \$65, plus freight. Barrels and totes are also available.

The oil-based product goes a long ways and lasts through a couple of washings, Siebesma says.

"It acts as a lubricant and helps protect against rust and corrosion also," he adds, which helps protect bearings and gears.

He continually hears about new uses for it. Customers spray Slipcoat IRC on bushhog and mower decks. Waste haulers spray the insides of roll-off containers and dump trucks. Truckers spray the undercarriage and wheel wells to stop ice and mud build-up.

Besides the general purpose IRC coating, Global Barrier Coatings offers specific lines for other industries such as asphalt and concrete. They are available through the business's website and may be available soon through some nationwide chain stores.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Global Barrier Coatings Inc., 1001 Calle Negocio - Unit B, San Clemente, Calif. 37220 (ph 949 542-7440; www.slipcoats.com).