

Pole Barn Post Handler

John Lamb recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a pole barn post handler he built. It attaches to the round bale spear frame on his loader tractor and is designed to pick up 6 by 6 or 6 by 4-in. wooden posts and stand them up straight in pre-dug holes.

"I used it last fall with my Ford 3000 50 hp. loader tractor to build a 64-ft. long, 28-ft. wide by 14-ft. high machine shed on my farm. I came up with the idea because I couldn't find anyone to help me. I was able to set 20-ft. posts and plumb them by myself," says Lamb.

A 12-ft. length of 6-in. channel iron serves as the post handler's main frame. Lamb welded 4-in. channel iron and angle iron together to make a pair of "saddles" at the top and bottom of the frame that are used to contain the post. A long steel pin goes through both saddles to secure the post.

One end of the channel iron attaches to the bale spear frame. Lamb removed the center spear, then inserted a 3/4 by 10-in. bolt through the spear sleeve and installed a washer and nut on the back side. He also inserted a 3/4-in. pin through the angle iron and secured it with a hairpin.

The post is first placed on a pair of sawhorses. Lamb drives up to the post and lowers the post handler down until both saddles straddle the post. Then he inserts a pair of 3/4-in. pins through the saddles and

secures them with hairpins. He also tightens a pair of 5/8-in. threaded rods, which have welded-on handles, into the side of the post to keep it from sliding down when standing it up.

Once the post is loaded he drives the tractor to the post hole and lowers the post into it. Then he removes the 3/4-in. pins from the saddles and retracts the 5/8-in. bolts back far enough to clear the post so the post can slowly slide down onto the pad. He then adjusts the post to the left or right by using a pair of 1/2-in. bolts that run through the bottom saddle. He also uses the loader's hydraulics to adjust the post backward and forward until it's plumbed straight.

The two sets of holes in the saddles are there so he can load either 6 by 6 or 6 by 4-in. post.

"It worked even better than I expected," says Lamb. "I already had the angle iron and bolts and spent less than \$100 to build it. I also made a 1 1/2 by 1 1/2-in. angle iron to keep a 4 by 6-in. post centered in the top saddle when the post's narrow side is turned out."

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Photo shows 6 by 6-in. post being raised into position.



Post is first placed on a pair of sawhorses. Lamb lowers post handler down until both saddles straddle post. Then he inserts steel pins through saddles and tightens threaded rods into side of post to keep it from sliding when he lifts it up.

Easy-To-Use Big Bag Dispenser

"You can discharge exactly as much material as you need from bulk bags and direct the flow right where you want. Any unused material can be safely stored in the bag until it's needed again," says Jon Lubke, Ridgeway, Iowa, about the Raimo Big Bag Dispenser.

Manufactured in Finland, the Raimo dispenser can be used with seed, fertilizer, pelleted feed and other types of free-flowing material. The dispenser is made from durable plastic and consists of 3 parts: A main component with two blades that cut a circular hole into the bag liner and a slide that opens and closes the dispenser; a locking ring that catches on the bag's liner to keep the dispenser securely fastened; and a 1 1/2-ft. long extension tube that snaps onto the main

component and directs the material wherever it needs to go.

Lubke has used the Raimo dispenser for four years and is now a distributor. "I got interested after we started handling soybean seed in bulk bags on our farm," he says. "Bulk seed bags come with a small spout or funnel at the bottom, but once the bag is open it's hard to get it closed again so you often have to empty the contents into a wagon or some other container. The Raimo dispenser lets you safely store any unused material in the bag until it's needed again."

Lubke says he has used the dispenser on dozens of bags with no problems. "The first time we used it we were hesitant, because each bulk bag holds several thousand dollars worth of soybeans and we didn't want them

spilling onto the ground. However, we've never had any spills. Neighboring farmers saw how well the dispenser worked for us and showed interest, so I became a distributor."

He says improved safety is another advantage. "Bulk bags hold 1,000 to 2,000 lbs. of material, so you don't want to be working underneath while you're trying to open them. The Raimo dispenser lets you open the bag from the front or side instead of directly underneath, which is much safer."

The Raimo big bag dispenser retails for \$125 plus S&H.

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Dispenser lets you discharge exactly as much material as you need from bulk bags and direct the flow right where you want.

UTV-Mounted "Rock Claw"

"Our new UTV-mounted Rock Hawk and Steel Replacement Box makes rock picking an easier job and prevents damage to the UTV's original box," says Tyler Wenner, Ag Storm Equipment, LLC, St. Peter, Minn.

The UTV Rock Box and Rock Hawk is designed to fit all Polaris Rangers and most Deere Gators. It works much like the company's front-mount Rock Hawk rock picker for tractors, which is designed to pick up rocks in the field and then swing them over into a rock box on front of your tractor (Vol. 38, No. 5). The steel replacement box bolts on using the same mounting brackets.

The Rock Hawk consists of a self-tightening, 3-claw grapple assembly on the end of a cable, and is operated by a winch that runs off the UTV's battery. The winch is controlled by a 2-way switch mounted near the mast.

"It lets you use your UTV to pick up rocks, without doing any damage to the vehicle," says Wenner. "Many UTV's come with plastic boxes that can be easily damaged by rocks thrown into them. One customer who traded in his Gator every year had to take a \$1,000 discount every time because the box

was destroyed by rocks."

"The winch is rated at 3,100 lbs. so the Rock Claw can handle really big rocks," says Wenner.

The box comes with a tailgate that can be angled down and locked at a 25 degree angle. "The problem with a factory UTV box is that the weight of rocks pushing on the tailgate may keep you from being able to open it. By setting the tailgate down at a 25 degree angle the rocks won't come out, yet you can still dump them," says Wenner.

If you don't want to spend the money for a Rock Hawk, the company offers a metal rock liner that sets inside the UTV's cargo box to serve as a protective shell.

The UTV box and Rock Hawk combo sells for \$3,500. The box only sells for \$1,950. A metal box liner only that fits all Polaris Rangers and most Deere Gators sells for \$995.

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UTV-Mounted Rock Hawk is designed to pick up rocks in the field and then swing them over into a steel replacement box.