

Pink Bale Wraps Coming To Hay Fields

By next summer, workers at Heartnut Grove, Inc. hope to see pink-wrapped bales dotting fields throughout Ontario and beyond. The family-owned company sells innovative agricultural and horticultural products and is offering a special deal on pink bale wrap through Aug. 31, 2017.

"We believe everyone in some way has been touched by breast cancer, and that it can be emotionally and financially overwhelming for families," says Samantha Farquharson, sales representative for Heartnut Grove (HG). "For every pink roll sold, \$3 will be donated to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation."

The idea - and the pink wrap - comes from Trioplast, a Swedish company that has used the wrap for breast cancer awareness in Europe, New Zealand and Australia. The idea must have caught on, Farquharson says, because New Zealand is in its third year, and she saw plenty of pink-wrapped bales on a recent trip down under.

HG introduced the fundraising campaign at the 2016 Canada Outdoor Farm Show in September and is taking orders to have the wrap available before baling begins in May. "This is one way farmers can show support.



An Ontario company is offering a special deal on pink bale wrap to raise awareness about breast cancer. For every pink roll sold, \$3 will be donated to a foundation.

We're trying to get the bale wrap all over Ontario and, if we can, into the States. We're trying to get pink everywhere," Farquharson says.

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Pink Deere Garden Tractor Was Gift To Granddaughter

"I modified this pink Deere garden tractor to make it easier for my 5-year-old granddaughter to drive. She's really excited to have her own pink John Deere, and now we'll be able to drive around together at shows on our tractors," says Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill.

Nichols got the idea when his granddaughter Evelyn was only 8 mos. old and he started taking her for rides on his tractor. "I promised her that I would get a tractor for her someday," says Nichols.

Nichols wanted a tractor with hydrostatic drive for simplicity of operation. A little Deere 111H lawn tractor turned out to be the perfect choice. He repowered the tractor with a Toro 5 1/2 hp. engine off a riding mower. "I didn't need a big engine since this tractor isn't going to mow grass any more," he says.

Nichols also shortened the tractor's steering shaft by 3 in. and lowered and repositioned the seat and transmission lever. He plans to



Steve Nichols painted this Deere garden tractor pink and modified it so it's easier for his 5-year-old granddaughter to drive. He shortened the steering shaft and lowered and repositioned the seat and transmission lever.

make a small storage box that will fit under the the seat.

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Compact Horse-Drawn Mower Ideal For Alleyways

Jacob Blank may have the ideal mower for vineyards, orchards and produce farms. His prototype, horse-drawn, reciprocal mower comes with cutterbars of 30, 42 and 48 in. It was on display and in the field at the 2016 Horse Progress Days.

"It's ideal for getting in between fruit trees and vine crops," says Blank, I & J Manufacturing. "It uses a double cut, ESM mower sickle bar with 2 reciprocating blades and no guards. The ESM design has been proven to be the most efficient cutting system out there."

Blank explains that the innovative bar flexes over rocks and other obstacles, yet the blades can be resharpened like other sickles.

The mower has 20-in. steel wheels, but rubber wheels will be optional. Foot pedal controls guide the mower left or right for precision control.

"It works well around plastic mulch-covered beds," says Blank. "Growers often use cover crops in between the plastic and this mower is easy to maneuver between bedded crops."

Blank says the mower is ideal for smaller



Horse-drawn mower comes with cutters 30, 42 and 48 in. wide - short enough to fit between fruit trees and vine crops.

horses like Fjords and Halfingers, but a regular size draft horse also works well.

"We had a prototype out this past year and hope to have 5 of them out for field testing this coming year," says Blank. "If everything continues to look good, we'll be in full production in 2018."

While a price has not yet been set, Blank estimates it will be around \$3,500.

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Jesse Kauffman's one-of-a-kind deer stand is a roomy 72-passenger bus welded on top of a 28-ft. gas tank standing on end, anchored 10 ft. deep into the ground.

Elevated Bus Makes Great Deer Stand

Jesse Kauffman doesn't worry about making noise walking to his deer stand early in the morning. He's already there, because his stand is a roomy 72-passenger bus welded to the top of a 28-ft. gas tank standing on end in 10 ft. of dirt.

Besides sleeping on an air mattress in the bus stand, the Springbrook, Wis., hunter can make a meal on the stove, relax in one of two recliners, and play cards or games with visitors at the card table. And, most importantly, he stays warm with a camper heater.

Kauffman can't take full credit for the idea. Many years ago, his father, Willie Kauffman, mounted a small camper on the gas tank for a deer stand. It worked for several years but fell victim to a severe windstorm that also blew their barn down.

"So I decided to upgrade. A neighbor had a bus, which is much better than the camper because it has more windows to shoot out of," Kauffman explains.

He stripped out the bus seats and engine and prepped the bus for elevating. As owner and operator of an excavating business, he had the means to lift the bus on top of the tank, though the first attempt failed. The dirt platform he built and the bulldozer he used weren't big enough and the bus crashed to the ground. With a second bus, a day and a half building a dirt ramp and a bigger dozer, he was able to safely push the bus atop the tank. Welded to the frame and anchored on all four corners to I-beams buried in the ground, it has stood strong against winds since 2010.

An old bale elevator provides a stairway to enter the bus through the engine compartment.



An old bale elevator provides a stairway to enter bus through the engine compartment.

"We just made do with what we had using scrap iron from the farm," Kauffman says.

With so many windows, visibility is good all the way around, and several hunters can be in the bus stand at the same time. It's also great for coyote hunting and spending time with his daughters, Kauffman says.

"The best part is being able to wake up in the deer stand," Kauffman concludes.

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Interior of bus is equipped with a stove, camper heater, 2 recliners, and a card table. "I like having a lot of windows to shoot out of," says Kauffman.