

Amazing Mobile Dryer Treats 36 Big Square Bales Per Hour

An amazing new portable hay dryer called the Ag Maximizer produces higher quality hay. Developed by Chandler Gulbranson and his dad, Emil, after a very wet 2016, the dryer worked so well that they started Agri Green Enterprises to manufacture and market it.

"We can dry 4 by 8-ft. square bales that are at 25 percent moisture down to 12 percent or lower in 15 min.," says Gulbranson. "It preserves leafage, maximizes protein, and retains color. It lets you harvest hay sooner so there's less loss in the field."

Originally a multi-trailer unit, a new configuration is on a single trailer. "Just pull in and go to work," says Ed Shaw, director of sales, Agri Green. "It's completely self-contained."

A hydraulic pump on the unit's 388 hp. Volvo engine pushes 78 bale spears into each of 6 big square bales on the trailer. The big engine mechanically powers the fan, driving 18,000 cu. ft. per min. through the spears and into the hay. As engine-warmed air is compressed by the fan, its temperature rises to about 100 degrees above the ambient air temperatures. After 15 to 20 min., the tubes are withdrawn and the bales unloaded from the trailer. As the bales cool, they continue to sweat out moisture.

"We can dry as many as 36 bales per hour depending on moisture levels," says Gulbranson. "If it was stationary, we would have to haul the bales with their moisture to it. Setting it up in the field reduces handling, and you're hauling dry hay to the shed or for transport."

In addition to their own, the Gulbransons have 4 units out to hay producers. Two customers use their mobile dryers for their own hay, while the other 2 dry their own and do custom drying for others.



Mobile dryer can dry 4 by 8-ft. square bales at 25 percent moisture down to 12 percent in just 15 min. Engine-warmed air, compressed by a fan, is driven into the hay.

"There is a lot of interest from folks interested in doing custom drying," says Gulbranson. "Those doing it are charging \$300 an hour."

The Gulbransons are also getting a lot of interest internationally with one order pending specification approval in Spain.

The Ag Maximizer has a 20-week delivery time and is priced at \$350,000 (U.S.).

"The only operating cost is fuel," notes Gulbranson. "The big engine burns around 17 gal. (66 L) of fuel per hour when drying bales."

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Warm air is forced down through spears that stick into bales.

He Turns Grader Blades Into Bucket Forks

Worn-out grader blades can be used to make inexpensive bucket-mounted forks, says Norman Foellmi, Sparta, Wis. He uses the bolt-on forks on his Oliver 1365 tractor equipped with a 6-ft. wide bucket.

He gets the worn-out blades free from his local county machine shop. They measure 5 ft. long by 5 in. wide and come with holes spaced about 1 ft. apart. When installed the blades extend 4 ft. in front of the bucket.

Foellmi drilled 2 holes about 3 ft. apart in back of the bucket and 2 more directly in front.

By overlapping the forks and bolting them together at the front, Foellmi can poke the forks through whatever item he wants to lift, such as scrap steel or tires. He sets the

blades parallel to each other like a forklift in order to haul round or small square bales and other bulky items.

"I'm really happy with them," says Foellmi. "I came up with the idea because I wanted something to pick up stuff without spending the money for clamp-on forks. The blades are made from high carbon steel so they'll hold up to anything my loader can lift. By removing the bolts I can quickly drop the forks off and use the bucket for other jobs."

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Worn-out grader blades measure 5 ft. long by 5 in. wide. Foellmi can either bolt them together in front or set them parallel like forks.

Splash Guard For Pressure Washer Wands

This new "Splash Guard" fits onto pressure washer wands to protect you and the surrounding area from splash back.

Made from heavy-duty plastic, it consists of an 8-in. dia. bowl-shaped disc that looks like a Frisbee with a small hole in the middle. You remove the nozzle from the end of the wand, then slide the disc up onto the wand and reinstall the nozzle.

"It keeps 95 percent of the splash back from coming back into your face. Works great for cleaning corners and edges," says inventor Brian Thiessen, Blue Ridge Enterprises, Steinbach, Manitoba. "It's especially useful

on commercial high pressure washers equipped with 'dirt blaster' pulsating nozzles, which create a lot of splash back. The disc fits loosely on the wand, so if you have to clean in a narrow spot you can slide the Splash Guard farther up the wand and still reach in."

Splash Guard retails for \$5 plus S&H. Available only from dealers. Contact the company to find your nearest dealer.

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Bowl-shaped "Splash Guard" slides up onto pressure washer wand to keep the operator dry.