

# Trailer-Mounted Big Bale Flaker/Feeder

One person can haul a big square bale to pasture and then flake it apart with this new trailer-mounted bale flaker/feeder invented by rancher Terry Atkins of Visalia, Calif. It was introduced at the recent World Ag Expo in Tulare, Calif.

The hydraulic-operated flaker/feeder is designed to feed 3 by 3-ft. or 3 by 4-ft. big square bales. It comes with a self-contained electro/hydraulic pump, which operates off the vehicle's 12-volt battery, and a handheld wireless remote. The trailer's tongue is fitted with a 2-in. ball hitch, allowing the unit to be pulled by any pickup or utility vehicle. A hydraulic-operated flaker blade on back slices down through the bale to feed it out one flake at a time.

An electric winch or loader tractor can be used to load the bale onto the trailer. To feed the bale, you first hydraulically raise the trailer floor to the desired angle, which causes the bale to slide back against a pair of stop arms as soon as the sliced flake falls off.



Flaker/feeder is designed to feed 3 by 3-ft. or 3 by 4-ft. big square bales. It comes with an electric winch that can be used to load the bale onto the trailer after the first bale has been fed out.

"It's a great way to flake and feed big square bales, because it saves on physical labor and associated costs and is trailer-mounted so it doesn't tie up a vehicle," says Atkins. "It'll flake and spread a big bale in less than 10 minutes. Also, there's no need to remove the strings."

The unit comes with an electric winch that can be used to retrieve a bale from the pulling vehicle, such as a flatbed truck, and load it onto the flaker/feeder trailer after the first bale has been fed out. The size of the flake can be adjusted by changing the position of a pin on the stop arms.

Sells for \$11,990 plus S&H.

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Hydraulic-operated blade on back slices down through bale to feed it out one flake at a time.

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## Easy-To-Use Kindling Splitter

"It's a safe, fast way to get kindling for my wood stove or fireplace," says Ken Veach, Zwingle, Iowa.

His portable kindling splitter consists of a 6-in. long, 4-in. wide steel ax welded on top of a heavy steel plate that's bolted to a sturdy log. The ax is supported on both sides by welded-on steel braces.

The operator uses one hand to hold the wood on top of the ax, and his other hand to strike the wood.

"It works much better than using a hatchet

because I can hang onto the wood without worrying about the hatchet hitting my fingers. Also, I can make much smaller pieces of wood," says Veach. "When not in use I use a homemade wooden cover to protect the exposed blade."

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An ax head is welded to the top of a heavy steel plate which is then bolted to a log.

## "Sump Pump" Empties Wet Vac

When he's vacuuming up water, Harry Schwartz never dumps his shop vac until the job is done, no matter how much water he has to remove. His sump pump-equipped vac dumps itself.

"My basement has flooded several times over the years, and the first time I was continually filling the canister and dumping," recalls Schwartz. "My son Tom suggested the idea of using a sump pump. We went to the store and got a larger shop vac and a small sump pump that fit inside."

Once he got home, Schwartz drilled a hole in the side for the 100-ft. hose he attached to the sump.

"As the vac fills with water the float switch activates the sump to empty it so I can just keep vacuuming."

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Small sump pump fits inside shop vac and has a 100-ft. hose attached to it. As the vac fills with water, the float switch activates the sump to empty it.