

Round Bale Unroller Works Behind Any Farm Vehicle

"It's more profitable to unroll round bales on pasture than to feed them out of a bale ring, and our new pull-type bale unroller is the most cost efficient bale unroller on the market," says Greg Judy, Rucker, Mo.

The ground-driven, single bale Greg Judy Original Bale Unroller mounts on two 15-in. low flotation tires and is designed to be used with any 4-wheeler, utility vehicle, or pickup equipped with a ball hitch.

"It has a simple design that eliminates the need for a tractor, which saves money," says Judy. "It's lightweight so you can unroll an 1,800-lb. round bale on pasture without causing soil compaction or leaving destructive wheel ruts in the field. It's built strong to take the abuse of unrolling an 1,800-lb. bale over rough terrain without breaking down. And it's so well balanced that one person can easily load the bale and hook it up to the vehicle."

The unroller's frame is made from rectangular tubing and is designed to pivot on a cantilever-type mechanism that's built into the wheel spindles. The lifting mechanism is a geared boat winch, which is mounted on a pedestal that's welded to the tongue. A heavy-duty nylon strap runs from the winch

up to a steel hook that's welded to the top of the unroller's frame.

A pair of 2-ft. long removable steel spikes on back of the unroller are used to secure the bale, and a 2-ft. long log chain welded to each spike keeps them from coming back out of the bale. The end of the chain attaches to an adjustable, spring-loaded hook that attaches to a latch. A small 3/8-in. thick square steel "pounding plate" is welded to the end of the spike.

The operator pulls the spikes all the way back. Then he backs up to the bale and uses a sledge hammer to drive both spikes about one foot into the center of the bale. Once the spikes have been driven in, he cranks the boat winch handle to tighten the nylon strap and lift the bale up off the ground for transport.

"Once the bale unrolls down to a 6-in. diameter or so, steel rings on back keep the spikes up off the ground so they don't get damaged by rolling over rocks or tree stumps," says Judy.

"On my farm, this is my fertilizer spreader. I unroll a bale, then let the cattle do all the work. I can use my 4-wheeler or utility vehicle to feed my cattle without tearing up the ground, and I don't have the expense of



Ground-driven, single bale round bale unroller can be used to feed cattle without tearing up the ground, and without the expense of a tractor.

a tractor."

There's also the fertilizer value of the leftover hay, and the manure spread out across the field. "With an 1,800-lb. bale you'll typically get a 150 to 200-ft. long windrow, so you can make 3 or 4 passes across a small field," says Judy. "Every bale has about \$30 to \$40 worth of nutrients in it, so you're spreading nutrients across a wide area and also providing your cows with access to feed over a larger area, which will lead to more

grass growth the next year. The hay has seeds in it, so you can expect more hay to grow the next year. And you won't have any dead spots caused by cattle trampling the ground around bale rings."

The Greg Judy Original Bale Unroller sells for \$2,300, picked up at his farm.

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Jeff Toussaint couldn't justify the cost of a new cover crop interseeder, so he made his own by mounting a Gandy air seeder and Hiniker interseeder units on a 6-row toolbar.

Cover Crop Interseeder "Almost Perfect"

Jeff Toussaint mounted a Gandy air seeder and Hiniker interseeder units on a 6-row toolbar and it is almost, but not quite, perfect. The upstate New York farmer and his son Matt have used the unit for 2 years, but plan to revamp it this winter.

"We run a 16-row planter with RTK guidance, so I figured by using RTK I could match up my 6-row interseeder without a problem," says Toussaint. "However, even an inch or two off creates problems. We plan to add a couple of wings to the toolbar this winter to make it 8 rows to better match up with the planter."

Toussaint credits interseeding corn at V5 to V6 with higher yields in 2017, a wet year, and again in 2018, a dry year.

"The 2016 crop year was similar to 2018, but without cover crops interseeded into the corn, the yields that year were horrible," says Toussaint. "In 2018, the fields with cover crops held the moisture better, the soil temperature was lower and the corn showed less moisture stress. It ended up yielding 14 bushels more per acre than fields without cover crops."

Toussaint tried interseeding with a straight air seeder blowing the seed to the ground. He says the benefit of seed-to-soil contact with the interseeding planter units was noticeable.

"Without the row units, we had inconsistent germination," says Toussaint. "With them,



Toussaint interseeds cover crops into corn at the V5 to V6 stage.

we had consistent germination field-wide, on the knolls, and in the valleys."

Toussaint farm employee Ed Johnson added the Hiniker row units to a 15-ft. toolbar repurposed from a 6-row cultivator. Two row units were ganged to lay down seed between each set of corn rows. They plumbed the Gandy air hoses through the row units.

"There are a several nice interseeders available from different manufacturers, but they are pricey," says Toussaint. "I didn't want to spend the money on something that might not work. It's worked out well, and wings will make it even better."

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Trailer-mounted bale spear sticks out the back and pivots forward using a winch and pulley system.

Easy-To-Build Bale Spear Trailer

FARM SHOW reader Bruce Dick figured out an easy way to haul a big round hay bale with a simple trailer/spear/winch.

"It's a single axle with a long tongue," he explains. "My biggest expense is the battery and 3,500-lb. winch."

He built his first one from an old camper trailer axle to haul 1,500-lb. bales. When the bales got bigger - 2,000 lbs. - he built a heavier-duty model from scrap material he had on hand. He used an I-beam and square

tubing for the frame, and a 54-in. spear made out of old hydraulic cylinder rams sticks out the back. The back upright beam pivots forward with the winch and a 4-part pulley system. A short section of channel iron stops the bale before it hits the pivot point so the bale is easy to unload.

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