

Big Bale “Flaker” Controlled From Cab

Bill Spratt’s trailer-mounted, Precision Hay Feeder drops big square bale flakes “on demand” via remote control from the tractor or truck cab. The remote-controlled, hydraulic bale pusher feeds the big bales between twin vertical flakers at the back of the trailer.

“The flakers are freewheeling with fingers that release the flake and open it up as it falls,” says Spratt. “You control how many flakes are released and where simply by activating the pusher. One customer likes to drop several, each in piles 20 to 30 yards apart so cattle gather around each pile, reducing waste.”

The bale feeder, available in two sizes, grew out of volunteer work Spratt was doing at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho.

“One of my jobs was to feed alfalfa to 17 head of pack horses and mules each day,” recalls Spratt. “I hauled four, 90-lb., small square bales to the corral and spread the flakes by hand. It wasn’t long before I started looking for a better way.”

At the close of the 2011 season, Spratt built a small bale feeder and then larger versions. Currently he is concentrating on refining and

building the large units for both single 3 by 3-ft. and 3 by 4-ft. big square bales. A 2-bale unit can also handle 4 by 4-ft. bales. Recently he had a special order for a single bale unit that would handle a 4 by 4-ft. big square bale.

The hydraulic motor on the pusher is powered by tractor hydraulics or a trailer-mounted 12-volt, 3,000 psi, hydraulic power pack. Spratt offers cabled remote controls for the power packs. They are also available with Bluetooth for smartphone control or with key fob remotes.

While he sometimes has units available, most are built on order and take up to 4 weeks to complete. He prices his single-bale Precision Hay Feeder at \$4,875. The 2-bale unit is \$6,875. The customized single, 4 by 4-ft. bale unit with a heavier axle is priced at \$5,600.

“I want to get everything working perfectly with the Precision Bale Feeders and then sell the rights,” says Spratt, who is 85 years old. “I hope to find an energetic younger person who wants to build and sell them.”

Spratt has several other bale feeders he has developed, but is not actively marketing. They include single bale units to be parked



Remote-controlled, hydraulic bale pusher feeds big square bales back to twin vertical flakers.

near corrals or a barn with the option of drawing power from a 110-115 AC outlet.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Precision Hay Feeders, 7117 S. Andes

Circle, Centennial, Colo. 80016 (ph 720 240-1119; sprattbill@gmail.com; www.precisionhayfeeders.com).

“Drop” Gate Latch Opens With One Finger

This new “drop” gate latch offers one-handed operation from either side of the gate and, when released, allows the gate to swing in either direction.

The Best Gate Latch consists of an upper catch latch and a hinged, 2-pronged fork attached to a rectangular steel base plate that bolts onto the post.

“It’s easy to operate on foot or from horseback and is easy to use while carrying things,” says inventor Gene Lieser. “You use your finger to pull the catch latch up which drops the fork, allowing the gate to swing in either direction. Once you’re through the gate, just lift the fork back up again to latch the gate shut.”

“The one-handed operation makes it easy to lead animals through, or carry buckets,

halters, hay and other items. Also, the latch is designed so it can’t be opened by horses or other animals. A padlock can be used to lock it.”

The latch will fit gate-to-post spacings from 2 1/2 in. to a maximum of 5 1/2 in.

The latch comes with 4 lag bolts for 4 pilot holes in a standard wood post. A metal pipe, panel or narrow wood post requires 2 bolts. The ungalvanized latch can be welded to round or square metal posts.

Sells for \$35 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lieser Land Forge, LLC, P.O. Box 7803, Spring, Texas 77387 (ph 956 975-1283; lieserlandforge@yahoo.com; www.bestgatelatch.com).



“Drop” gate latch consists of an upper catch latch and a hinged, 2-pronged fork. Pulling the catch latch up drops the fork, allowing gate to swing in either direction.

RotoShovel Digs Clean Holes Fast

“Our new RotoShovel is a handheld cordless auger that comes with its own built-in shovel to scoop soil out of the ground as the hole is dug,” says Rick Goren, Fishers, Ind.

The RotoShovel measures 22 in. long and weighs just 4 lbs. It comes with a rubber grip at one end that you hold while digging, and an 8-in. long, 3-in. dia. auger with an attached, removable metal shovel. Power is supplied by a 12-volt, lithium-ion rechargeable battery. The auger can be operated with a variable speed in forward or reverse. A thumb switch is used to turn the auger on or off, and a keyless chuck is used to change the auger bit.

“It has a lot of torque with the planetary gear set and makes quick work out of digging holes, no matter what the soil is like,” says Goren. “The auger’s sharp edges will cut through even hard, compacted dirt.”

He says many women will prefer the RotoShovel to an auger powered by a cordless drill. “You don’t have to worry about



RotoShovel comes with an auger and an attached, removable metal shovel.

twisting your hand or wrist while digging because you’re holding with both hands. Also, the shovel adds stability to help keep the auger from twisting.”

Sells for \$139.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RotoShovel, 8977 E. 116th St., Fishers, Ind. 46038 (ph 317 538-9064; rick@rotoshovel.com; www.rotoshovel.com).

Clever Way To Add Weight To Small Tractor

Leonard Seltzer’s 3-pt. weight system consists of a concrete-filled 25-gal. barrel with an embedded drawbar that attaches to the lift arms. He uses it on his Ford model 1715 loader tractor.

The barrel measures 31 in. tall and 14 in. dia. and is filled entirely with concrete, with small rocks and chunks of iron mixed in. A Cat. 1 toolbar that connects to the lift arms on his tractor extends out either side of the barrel. Before filling the barrel with concrete, Seltzer cut a hole on each side, slightly above the barrel’s center, and slid the toolbar through. Then he filled the barrel with concrete to seal the toolbar in place.

A big I-bolt is embedded in concrete at the top center of the barrel, allowing him to use his front-end loader and chain to move the barrel around.

“Some tractors are famous for being front-end heavy. My homemade weight helps even things out,” says Seltzer. “Total weight of the barrel is about 440 lbs.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Seltzer, 16040 Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, Ill. 60442 (ph 779 279-5116).



Concrete-filled barrel contains an embedded drawbar that attaches to 3-pt. lift arms.

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