

## SPINNING RUBBER TIRES CONDITION HAY, DRIVE THE CUTTING DRUMS

# New Tire-Powered Mower Speeds Up Hay Making

You've never seen a mower/conditioner quite like the recently unveiled "Spinbine" introduced by the Matthews Co., Crystal Lake, Ill.

Hay cut by the drum-type cutters is conditioned between one of two pairs of rotating rubber tires. The four conditioning tires lie horizontally in a row behind the rotating drums taking hay from the corresponding pair of cutting drums. A steel roller cage that fits over one tire of each pair conditions the hay.

The Spinbine is designed for farmers and ranchers who bale or chop lots of hay each year and now use a conventional mower conditioner.

"Conventional drum mowers cut very fast," explains Joe Cox, sales manager for the company, "but their roller type conditioners limit travel speed. If you go too fast, they plug up. The new Spinbine, on the other hand, travels as fast as 10 mph and still does a good job of conditioning."

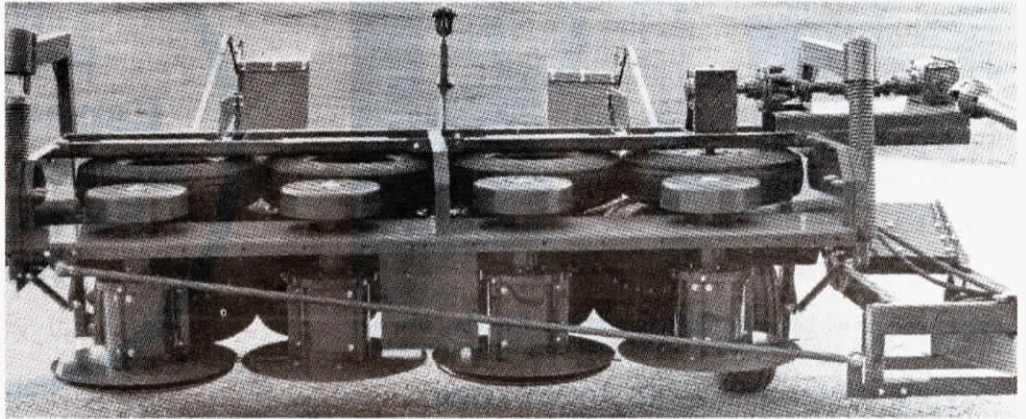
In addition to its unusual conditioning system, the Spinbine also features a new tire drive system that practically eliminates gears and belts, allowing slippage which prevents drive train damage. The pto-powered gearbox drives a rubber tire which, in turn, drives three other tires by friction. The tires lie horizontally above the four conditioning tires, driving both the drum cutters and the conditioners.

Another Spinbine feature is its L-shape cutting blades. The three reversible blades on each drum spring out of the way when they hit rocks or other foreign objects.

Wings on the back of the Spinbine let you direct hay to two separate windrows which can be spaced 1 in. to 4½ ft. apart.

The 9 ft. Spinbine lists for \$8,450. Transport width is 12 ft., 1 in. and the unit can be powered by 540 or 1,000 rpm tractors.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Matthews Co., P.O. Box 70, Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014 (ph 815 459-2488).



Four rubber tires drive the mower, eliminating troublesome belts and gears, and four condition hay directly behind the mower drums.

## HAULS MANURE, CATTLE, SILAGE AND REPLACES FEED WAGON

# Multi-Use Feed Truck

By Terry Hockaday

Gus Schrauwen's search for better cattle-feeding equipment took him to the dairy farms of British Columbia's Fraser Valley. Multi-use farm trucks like the one pictured are so popular in that area that a valley firm is doing a booming business customizing heavy trucks to order.

Schrauwen bought the truck and had it customized to do a variety of jobs. Total cost — \$55,000 with half of that for the box and hydraulics.

That may seem like a lot of money, but take a look at what it can do. Schrauwen hauls silage from the field, hauls feed from the silo, and feeds all his cattle with it every day. He hauls shavings, spreads all the feedlot manure and can haul small loads of cattle with it.

The truck is equipped with 2 separate sections of moving floor. A small belt conveyor below a set of flails at the front of the box is used for feeding.

The larger section at the back of the truck has a floor chain that can move

material quickly to the back or front of the truck.

Schrauwen likes the truck for hauling silage from the field. It holds about 6 tons of silage — more than most other trucks or silage wagons.

To haul wood shavings used for bedding, he simply adds planks to the top of the box to reach the maximum allowable 13 in. height and loads it up. Like the silage hauled from the field, shavings are also dumped out the back of the truck.

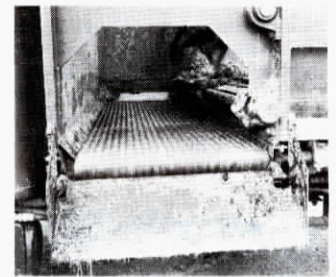
To haul small loads of cattle, Schrauwen has to drop in a sheet of heavy plywood just behind the flails, at the front of the truck box. It won't haul many, but it works well in a pinch for moving a dozen or so cattle.

Spreading manure may be the job this truck performs best. Schrauwen pulls off the tailgate and installs power driven beaters on the brackets located at the back end of the truck. Those beaters are removed and stored when not in use. The big box holds about 16 yards of material, although

this may be a bit too heavy for field travel if it's wet. That's about 4 times what Schrauwen's big manure spreader would haul, and the truck is much faster getting out to the field and back once it's loaded.

Hydraulic controls for the gadgetry on the truck box are located within handy reach of the driver's seat. However, the real beauty of this system is that it runs off a separate hydraulic system located at the front of the truck. So there's no need to clutch the truck every time you want to use the hydraulic system. It also lets him operate the controls from outside the truck, a handy feature when the driver wants to keep an eye on silage being unloaded at harvest time.

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Photos courtesy The Cattlemen Magazine



Schrauwen spent \$55,000 to equip his truck to do a variety of jobs. Side unload door, above right, feeds into bunks.



Rubber tire conditioner handles hay as fast as the Spinbine can cut it, according to the manufacturer.