

How To Protect Wrapped Bales Or Ag Bags From Hail, Rodents

The same company that makes weighted covers for bunker silos, eliminating the need for tire weights (Vol. 32, No. 2) also makes "Bag Armour" for plastic-wrapped bales and silage or grain bags.

"The fabric is very pliable so it conforms to the bags or bales," says Eric Von Deylen, at Bag Man, LLC, the Hammond, Wisconsin-based U.S. distributor for Secure Covers.

The textured high-density polyethylene covers have been used worldwide for a couple decades and came to the U.S. in 2007. "There is a 10-year warranty against UV breakdown, and in Europe they've had some that are still in use after 20 years."

It costs less than a penny/bushel/year to protect a grain bag from hail and bird damage.

"We're finding additional uses for Secure Covers," Von Deylen says. Producers use

them for shade cloth and windbreaks to protect animals in three-sided sheds, while still allowing air circulation. For example, in Europe, a goat producer had a 15 percent death loss of babies due to no air movement in a solid sided shed. They opened panels and hung a secure cover, and the death rate dropped to 3 percent.

When not needed the covers can be folded and stored. "Secure Covers are about convenience and damage protection, and we've had great feedback," he concludes.

Check the website or call for a dealer near you.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bag Man, LLC, 634 Co. Rt. T, P.O. Box 162, Hammond, Wis. 54015 (ph 800 796-5333; www.afsbgman.com).



Secure Covers are made from textured, high-density polyethylene fabric that's very pliable, allowing it to conform to plastic-wrapped bales or bags.

3-Pt. Hitches Fit Little John Deeres

Bill Ruegg can outfit just about any John Deere lawn tractor with a 3-pt. hitch. He also makes Cat. 0 and Cat. 1 drawbars and more. However, hitches are his main business, and increased versatility for lawn tractors is one reason.

"Our hitches can be used for plowing, disking, blading and more," says Ruegg. "We've sold hitches from Florida to California and Texas to North Dakota."

Ruegg started making hitches for John Deere lawn tractors in 2005 when a customer asked him for one that would fit a 318. For several years previous, Ruegg had concentrated on hitches for gray market utility tractors.

"As more requests came in for hitches for 318's, the business grew," says Ruegg. "We started with the one hitch kit, and now we make 6 different hitch kits, 3 drawbar models, and front weight brackets."

Each of the kits, with the exception of the 140 hitch kit, fits other tractors in its series.

With increasing popularity of the X Series, Ruegg makes 2 kits for them. However, the 318 hitch kit remains his big seller. With a reported million tractors sold in 1983 and 1984 alone, and sales continuing until 1992, there is a huge demand.

"They are still a John Deere fan favorite," says Ruegg.

Hitch kits range in price from \$385 for a 140 hitch kit to \$575 for an X700 kit, which includes a cylinder relocation kit. The ever-popular 318 hitch kit is priced at \$445 and fits models through the 430.

Drawbars are an A-frame design for use with the company's hitches. Drawbars range from \$95 for a Cat. 0 model with a 2-in. receiver hitch to \$145 for a Cat. 1 model, also with a 2-in. receiver hitch. The latter can carry up to six 40-lb. weights, while the former can handle up to 4-lb of weights. A Cat. 0 drawbar with a sleeve hitch is priced at \$135 and has an optional, bolt-on, 2-in. receiver priced at \$23.



Bill Ruegg says his 3-pt. hitches for Deere lawn tractors work great for plowing, disking, blading and so forth. Photo shows hitch kit on a Deere 318.

"We sell complete kits as well as replacement parts," says Ruegg. "Give us a call or send an email and we'll answer any questions you have."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruegg Mfg., 211 Wetmore Ave. SE, Massillon, Ohio 44646 (ph 330 418-5617; rueggrollers@hotmail.com; www.rueggmfg.com).

Blade Turns Skid Steer Into Giant Spade

The Spade Blade for skid steers is designed for maximum versatility and visibility. The pointed blade sinks straight down to dig out rocks and trees or for pinpoint excavations.

"You wouldn't use a square nose shovel when you need a pointed spade," says Matt Trelstad, TM Manufacturing. "The Spade Blade with its pointed blade works like a spade. Mounted to the arms of a skid steer, it slides into the ground to remove objects or skins at an angle to create a swale."

Retailing for \$1,295, the Spade Blade has a 2-ft. width and a 5-ft. reach. It weighs in at 385 lbs. The blade is made in the U.S. with grade 80, 3/8-in. steel. The sandblasted and powder-coated steel comes standard in a silver color, although custom colors are possible.

"The arms are made from sandwiched layers of 3/8-in. grade 80 steel for greater strength," says Trelstad. "They are designed to handle the abuse of a large machine pointing a 2-ft. wide spade at roots and rocks. When Trelstad designed his skid steer mounted log splitter (Vol. 34, No. 1), he made visibility a key feature. He did the same with the Spade Blade. The 2 heavy-duty mounting arms give the operator a clear view of what's being dug.

"The window between the arms makes it

easy to do precision digging," says Trelstad. "Why hire an excavator to dig out a leak in a water pipe or to access a buried cable? The window in the Spade Blade lets you see exactly where you are digging and what you are digging into."

That window made it possible for Trelstad to add even more versatility to the Spade Blade. He used the space between the arms on the shoulder of the shovel to create a dirt scoop. It has a straight center section and curving edges. When the arms are extended parallel to the ground, the center section is at a slight angle and ready to dig into the ground when dragged backward, creating a shallow trench.

Trelstad notes that a couple of passes with the dirt scoop would be ideal when excavating for a sidewalk or doing shallow trenching.

"The dirt scoop feature eliminates digging up more than needed," says Trelstad. "It gives you precise control skimming sod or other material. I used it to gather up weed fabric that had been laid down between rows of newly planted trees."

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Skid loader-mounted Spade Blade can be forced straight down to dig out rocks and trees or skimmed along the ground at an angle.