



Larson's Swing Spear has two sets of three spears each. Two are heavy-duty, 49-in. by 1 3/4-in. spears with a load capacity of 3,600 lbs.

Swing Spear Hauls Bales Faster

Don Larson came up with a better way to haul big round bales. His Swing Spear lets him haul bales faster with less wear and tear on bale twine and net wrap, as well as on the tractor itself.

"With most double bale carriers, you pick up a bale, set it next to another bale, back up and then drive forward to spear the two bales," says Larson. "You often end up rubbing them together and sliding them on the ground."

Larson wanted to eliminate the repositioning and keep the two bales separate while handling them. His idea was to spear a bale, swing it out of the way and spear the second bale. This would eliminate about 25 percent of handling time and reduce costs in multiple ways. Bales would

be left in better shape. If the Swing Spear was being used to feed out bales, they could be swung apart and netting more easily removed than if together.

"I started with cardboard patterns. When they worked, I drew a schematic on the floor," says Larson. "I cut out the pieces in steel and put it together. It works amazingly well."

The prototype was hinged in the middle of the top frame. The narrow 5-ft. width allowed Larson to spear a single bale in a row of bales or one bale at a time in the field. When approaching the second bale, the first bale is hydraulically moved up and out of the way. Once the second bale has been speared, the first swings down for transit.

After using it in his fields in the summer of 2020, Larson shared the prototype with

a college friend with a manufacturing company. The friend referred Larson to a patent attorney and had his engineers fine-tune the design. That winter a second prototype was put together.

"I used it in 2021, and it worked fabulously," says Larson. "I loaned it out to another producer, and he bought it. I've had nine more built since."

The Swing Spear has two sets of three spears each. Two are heavy-duty, 49-in. by 1 3/4-in. spears with a load capacity of 3,600 lbs. each. Each set also has a 27-in. by 1 3/8-in. stabilizing spear with a load capacity of 1,500 lbs. The frame is welded 3 1/2-in. by 1/4-in. thick square tubing with 1/2-in. thick main back frames and master plates.

The swing mechanism has inner and outer wear pads made from UHMW polyethylene and an oil-filled cast nylon wear pad. The pivot pin is operator lubricated and has an

oil-embedded bronze bushing. The carrier is powder coated for durability.

Larson designed the original Swing Spear for use with Euro/Global mounts, common to recent Deere tractors, welded in place. It is available at an introductory price of \$4,749 plus shipping and handling.

Swing Spears can also be ordered with universal skid steer mounts, with Deere Classic loader mounts, and with the Euro/Global mount master plates bolted to the frame. Prices vary; however, all are currently available at a \$750 introductory discount.

FARM SHOW readers should contact Larson directly if interested in buying a Swing Spear.

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After spearing a bale, it can be swung out of the way to spear a second bale, saving handling time.

Leif Anderson restored a 1949 Case High Crop tractor with the help of Darrell Beck.



Teenager Restores Rare 1949 Case VAH

As a young lad growing up in Nebraska, Leif Anderson enjoyed helping his family's neighbor, Jim Moore, with various farm jobs while admiring Moore's collection of nine older tractors. When Moore passed away, Anderson, who was 18 at the time, inherited his neighbor's 1949 Case High Crop VAH.

Anderson says he was thrilled to inherit the tractor, which Moore had used to power grain bin augers, bale conveyors, and handle other farm jobs for more than 50 years. In recent years the tractor's condition had deteriorated. When Anderson went to retrieve it, the engine was frozen. He and his dad towed the tractor to their farm, and he vowed to restore it in Moore's honor.

Anderson pulled the spark plugs and soaked the cylinders in oil to free the pistons. He rebuilt the carburetor and replaced the ignition system so the engine would run, but "it smoked like crazy and made all sorts of noises in the back end," Anderson says. The shattered oil pressure gauge read a mere 6 psi.

In the middle of his junior year in high school, Anderson enlisted the help of Darrell Beck, owner of Beck's Farm Equipment in Edgar, Neb., to help him with the restoration. Beck is a well-known restorer who frequently wins ageless iron tractor pulls with his

Minneapolis-Moline Model G. Beck hauled the tractor to his shop and began guiding Anderson through the restoration process.

The tractor was completely disassembled with Anderson spending many hours cleaning and sandblasting parts. The crankshaft was regreased by Dibbern Machine of York, Neb. Anderson and Beck installed a new camshaft, pistons, oil pump, a rebuild kit, and new bearings. They surfaced the head, seated new valves and installed new seals during reassembly.

Anderson painted the entire tractor Flambeau Red, the "original" classic color used on Case models built from 1939 to 1954, under the guidance of Dave Beck, Darrell's son.

"The whole project took us roughly 7 mos. and 800 hours from start to finish, but it was definitely worth it," Anderson says. "I couldn't have done it without Darrell and Dave's help."

Now thoroughly bitten by the old tractor bug, Anderson is planning to restore a Minneapolis-Moline UB for pulling, a 1937 Minneapolis-Moline Z, and his great grandpa's 1951 Ferguson TO-20.

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FFA Chapter Restored A 1943 Farmall

The FFA chapter of Oakdale High School in Oakdale, Calif., successfully restored a classic 1943 Farmall A tractor, which was found abandoned in the mountains of Monterey, Calif.

Teacher Isaac Robles worked with a select group of FFA students to bring it back to its former glory. Early on, International Harvester Collector president Roger Lubiens came to the school to present the students with a check for \$1,000 to assist in the restoration process.



Before and after restoration.



FFA Students pose with the Farmall tractor to be restored.

"This restoration is one of 40 such tractor restorations that IH Collectors Chapter 14 has funded here in California," explains Lubiens.

Over the school year, the student group worked together to dismantle the tractor to test and replace any parts, seals, and gaskets that had worn out. "The restoration process involves determining wear and tear on the engine, valve grinding, reassembly, sandblasting, priming, painting, and so much more," says Lubiens.

Work took place on school property within the agriculture mechanic's shop. While the students were responsible for raising some of the funds for the project, they also benefited

from broader community support. For example, tire company Titan International provided the chapter with a new set of tires for the tractor.

Now that the 1943 Farmall A is back in working order, it's doing just that on a small farm the chapter operates. Says Lubiens, "This FFA chapter received a 24-acre farm comprised of almond groves, cropland fields, raised garden beds, a cattle barn, a pig barn, and a sheep barn. Plus, a local contractor installed a computerized drip irrigation system for the entire farm."

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