"Tie-Grabber picks up a group of bales and ties it off before setting it on a transport," says Kuhns. "It makes the tied groups more stable for vertical stacks that won't fall over."

Tie-Grabber Stacks Bales Better

Whether stacking bales in the field or for storage, a single strand of twine tied around them makes them more stable. The single strand and limited compression let them continue to breathe and cure down. The Norden Tie-Grabber does the job. It was a natural next step for the company that started selling mechanical accumulators in 2005, according to Glen Kuhns.

"My dad built a mechanical small bale accumulator for our farm to automate the bale-making process," says Kuhn. "At the time, all the accumulators used hydraulics, and my dad's tractor didn't produce enough flow."

Soon after starting to sell the mechanical accumulators, the company developed the hydraulic-powered Tie-Grabber. Since then, they've sold both accumulators and matched-for-size Tie-Grabbers throughout North America and some internationally.

"The Tie-Grabber picks up a group of bales and ties it off before setting it on a transport," says Kuhns. "It makes the tied groups more stable for vertical stacks that won't fall over."

Tie-Grabbers are available in multiple configurations. The smallest is the KN408F, requiring a loader with a 1,700-lb. lift capacity. It picks up and ties a group of eight flat, small square bales, 2 long and 4 wide. The largest is the KN618 with a 2,600-lb. loader lift capacity. It grabs 18 on-edge bales and ties them off in a 6-wide and 3-long configuration. Other units include 10 and 15-bale groups in either flat or on-edge configurations, as well as a 12 flat bale unit.

Prices range from $10,475 for the KN408F to $11,575 for the KN618. Multiple hose options are available, with two hydraulic hoses for use with a splitter, or four hoses for use without a splitter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Norden Mfg., 4210 Kinsman Rd. NW, North Bloomfield, Ohio 44450 (ph toll-free 877-296-5851; sales@www.nordenmfg.com; www.nordenmfg.com).

Loader-Mounted Post Hole Auger

When the power unit on a portable post-hole auger went bad, Quinton Tschetter made it more portable and easier to use by mounting it to the side of his front-end loader.

"It was a hand-operated auger with a separate hydraulic unit on wheels with a 5 to 6-hp. motor," says Tschetter. "It was designed for putting in chain link fence posts in backyards and was quite innovative at the time."

Tschetter stripped it down to the auger unit with its hydraulic motor top and the square frame around it where the handles attached. He welded a narrow steel plate to the top of the frame for a mount and bolted it loosely to the loader so it could swing freely.

To power the auger, Tschetter disconnected the hydraulic hoses from the tilt cylinder on the loader and connected them to the motor.

"However, there was just the one pivot point, and I found the auger put a lot of pressure on the side of the bucket, explains Tschetter. "It got bent a bit, so I added a 6-in. square, 3/8-in. steel plate to the mount to spread the force out."

With that fixed, Tschetter ran into only one more problem. If the auger really grabbed hold and dug, the small tractor he has it attached to couldn't pull it out.

"It only happened once, and then I got smart," says Tschetter. "Now I make sure to never let the auger load up. The old hydraulic motor can only run in one direction, so I can't reverse the auger."

Tschetter has used the loader-mounted auger for many years and is more than satisfied with his salvage job. He appreciates having more visibility of the job than he would with a rear 3-pt. mount. Adjusting the placement of the auger is also easier.

"I can control it better," says Tschetter. "I can move it a 1/4-in. or more in all four directions just by turning the front wheels of the tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quinton Tschetter, 2379 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 (ph 641-660-9765; qct1944@gmail.com).

To power the auger, Tschetter disconnected the hydraulic hoses from the tilt cylinder on the loader and connected them to the motor.

Bracket has holes for two bolts. The pin that locks into the pin hooks on the quick attach plate goes through one hole. A nut secures its threaded end to the bracket.

3-pt. Quick Attach Modified For Wider Implements

If you have 3-pt. implements with lift arm links too wide for your quick attach plates, David Simpler has a fix. The retired machinist and miller made adapters for his own quick attach plate. They're lower link balls on brackets that connect to the pin hooks on the 3-pt.'s quick attach.

"I made mine in my machine shop using heavy-duty steel plate for the bracket," says Simpler. "It's 1 in. thick, 3 in. wide, and 5 in. long." Simpler notes that an option would be to weld pieces together, but his provides a pivot point for the lower link ball ends.

His bracket has holes for two bolts. The pin that locks into the pin hooks on the quick attach plate goes through one hole. A nut secures its threaded end to the bracket.

The second hole is at the front end of the bracket and matches up with a bolt-hole pattern on the back of his quick attach. A 5/8-in. bolt through it helps secure the add-on to the quick attach.

"I pinned the ball ends to the bracket with a 1/2-in. dia. drill rod after drilling holes through them to match the hole in the bracket," says Simpler. "This is what lets the arms pivot. They swing out to accommodate even wider implements."

If a FARM SHOW reader is interested in machining a similar bracket, Simpler will send details for a $5 fee. However, he notes that there are other ways to make an adapter.

"You could just weld two nuts with a bolt through them to a steel plate that holds the pin," he says. "Then, simply weld the ball ends to the bolt."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Simpler, 2645 Oldfield Pt. Rd., Elkton, Md. 21921 (ph 443-350-1199; davidsimpler@yahoo.com).

A heavy-duty double cylinder moves both forks in or out as desired. The forks lay flat to be used as regular pallet forks but are hinged in the back to rotate to the perfect grabbing angle.

Pallet Paws Make Pick-Up Easy

Hydraulically driven Pallet Paws fit the things they're picking up. The width adjustable and rotating forks may have been designed to pick up balled and burlapped trees and other nursery-related objects, but the potential is much greater.

"We introduced them to nurseries and the landscape market in 2008," says Aaron Oltmans, DPM, Inc. "When the operator brings the edge of the forks to an object, the forks rotate up to fit the side of whatever they're grasping."

A heavy-duty double cylinder moves both forks in or out as desired. The forks lay flat to be used as regular pallet forks but are hinged in the back to rotate to the perfect grabbing angle. Once hydraulic pressure is released, the forks return to their flat position.

"Pallet Paws can be used to move a pallet with objects on them and then move the individual objects off the pallet," says Oltmans.

The Pallet Paws' forks have a parallel spread of 14 1/2 in. to 41 in. The heavy-duty forks weigh 900 lbs. and are available in lengths of 72 and 80 in. They can handle weights, such as large boulders, of up to 5,000 lbs. The cylinder is rated for 3,000 psi with only 2 to 5 gpm needed for operation. The 2023 price for Pallet Paws was set at $6,950.

"Most Pallet Paws go out for use on skid steers, but we've made them for use with tractor loaders, big wheel loaders, and forklifts," says Oltmans.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DPM, P.O. Box 36, Davenport, Neb. 68335 (ph 402-364-2186 or toll-free 800-669-4408; sales@nurseryjaws.com; www.nurseryjaws.com).