

Wrap is made from a proprietary blend of plant-based biopolymers. It's strong enough to handle over 2,000 lb. bales but is fully compostable, broken down by soil microorganisms and enzymes.



Compostable Bale Wrap Breaks Down Naturally

"After a cold and frustrating February 2015 day of cutting and removing twine from my round bales and bale processing equipment, I had had enough and decided there must be a better way," says Alberta rancher Austin Ruud.

After seven years of research, development and testing, Ruud finalized Nature's Net Wrap, the world's first certified compostable baler wrap.

Plastic twine and net wrap contribute to over 2 million tons of waste each year, most of which is burned or sent to landfills. Some remain on cropland, where they get caught in seeding and tillage equipment, disrupting cropping operations. Occasionally, they're even ingested by cattle and wildlife, causing negative health consequences.

Ruud's innovative wrap is made from a proprietary blend of plant-based biopolymers. It's strong enough to handle over 2,000 lb. bales but is fully compostable, broken down by soil microorganisms and enzymes.

"I designed it so UV rays and rain have minimal impact on its degradation while on a bale, remaining intact for over two years, but it breaks down rapidly when removed and composted," Ruud explains.

The amount of wrap needed is similar to that of plastic, about 2 1/4 turns for hay and

3 1/4 turns for straw. If bales are used within a year, they can be stacked in the typical pyramid shape. However, Ruud recommends mushroom stacking if they're to be stored longer so the net wrap doesn't touch the ground.

The wrap is available in widths of 48, 51, 64 and 67 in., and lengths of 4,000 and 5,000 ft. Balers may require minor adjustments, but no modifications are necessary.

"Just pile it, compost it in a manure pack, leave it, and spread it later," Ruud says. "Our on-farm studies have shown that after 6 mos. in manure packs, our wrap was either gone or simply crumbled in our hands."

Nature's Net Wrap is certified as compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), which requires that a product be 90% disintegrated within 12 weeks in commercial composting conditions.

"Our wrap was 99.9% disintegrated under their conditions," Ruud says.

Nature's Net Wrap costs about \$1.25 to \$1.50 more per bale than plastic net wrap. It's available across North America at Case and New Holland dealerships.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nature's Net Wrap (ph 855-638-9727; info@naturesnetwrap.com; www.naturesnetwrap.com).

"30-ft. boomless nozzles, with single or left and right controls, provide excellent coverage for efficient and quick jobs, even in hard-to-access spots," says B&B parts representative Ron Kruse.



Weed Sprayer Perfect For Tight Spaces

B&B Technologies developed an innovative solution to spray pesky weeds and unwanted plants from small lots, waterways and hard-to-access areas.

Its ATV Contour Sprayer features a uniquely shaped tank designed to mount behind an ATV's seat. Its 24-gal. poly tank is secured with the included hold-down ratchet straps to prevent shifting or unwanted movement. A 4-gpm Everflo pump provides enough pressure for any small or isolated spraying task.

"30-ft. boomless nozzles, with single or left and right controls, provide excellent coverage for efficient and quick jobs, even in hard-to-

access spots," says B&B parts representative Ron Kruse. "A handy rack stores the pistol grip spray gun with an adjustable nozzle and the 20-ft. 3/8-in. hose."

The ATV Contour sprayer is assembled in Nebraska and available across the U.S., either directly from the company's Tekamah shop or through various dealers.

The sprayer is priced at \$1,835, plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, B&B Technologies, 674 Hwy. 75, Tekamah, Neb. 68061 (ph 402-374-2575 or 800-847-9865; www.b-btech.com).



Freeman designed the feeder to be lightweight and easy to move with an ATV or UTV.

Lightweight, Shop-Built Llama Feeder

Ask Dale Freeman to build a llama feeder, and he'll do it right. Not only can it hold two 5 or 6-ft. round bales, but every piece of tubular steel is also capped off. No water or wasp nests will find a way inside.

"I built it for a fellow whose land I hunt on," says Freeman. "Every vertical tube is plugged and welded solid."

Freeman designed the feeder to be lightweight and easy to move with an ATV or UTV. He mainly used 1-in. Schedule 40 pipe, bought in 21-ft. sections. To create the hoops, he cut the pipes into 7 ft. lengths. With help from a friend, G.W. Mays, and the landlord, Ander Fleming, he bent each piece twice at 45-degree angles to form one side of a hoop.

"It would've been very difficult to put four 45-degree bends in a 14-ft. pipe and have them all in line," says Freeman. "Instead, I drew a square on the floor and laid two 7-ft. pipes down inside it, so they overlapped and then welded them together."

He stood the hoops upside down on lengths of angle iron placed on the floor to get the desired 8-in. spacing. Then, he welded them

to the angle iron.

To mount the hoops, Freeman built a sleigh runner base with three uprights on each side. Each vertical is braced against the skids and cross-braced to opposing verticals with 3/4-in. pipe. He welded 3/4-in. pipe to the top of the verticals, tying them together and providing horizontal supports for the hoops.

He welded the hoops to the horizontal supports. The angle iron on top of the hoops sealed them shut while reinforcing the structure.

"I hinged the front end for loading bales," says Freeman. "The other end lifts off. The tow chain is mounted to a cross support on the skid frame, so it doesn't lay on the ground. I also welded chain links in various places on the uprights for tarp ties."

Freeman recalls making the feeder about 25 years ago.

"As far as I know, it's still in use," he says with pride.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Freeman, Monroe, Va. 24574.



Strickland Bros. manufactures brackets and hardware for mounting water tanks up to 350 gals. on all tractor models and brands.

Custom-Made Hardware For Tractor Water Hauling

Transplanting sweet potato and tobacco crops requires a large amount of water. Often, farmers spend excessive time, fuel and energy hauling this valuable resource to and from fields, cutting into their limited hours and finances to produce high-quality crops.

Strickland Bros. Enterprises solves these issues with their custom-designed front and side water tank metal mounting hardware for tractors.

"Hauling water to complete this important part of the production cycle for these types of crops is critical," says company owner Andrew Strickland. "If farmers can carry the water right on the tractor, it reduces the number of times they have to stop and fill up. Our customers love having this capability."

Strickland Bros. manufactures brackets and hardware for mounting water tanks up to 350 gals. on all tractor makes and models. Since original equipment manufacturers often change tractor configurations, they typically

start from scratch to meet each customer's specific needs. However, they also offer some ready-made brackets and mounts for common tractor years and brands.

"A farmer will bring us their tractor and the tanks they want mounted, and we'll customize and fabricate the framework, making the saddles and strapping fit properly," Strickland says. "When we're done, our fabrications are strong, user-friendly and professional-looking."

All the work is completed at the Strickland Bros. North Carolina shop.

Costs range from \$5,000 to \$11,000 depending on factors like tank size and whether it has a single or dual-wheel design.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Strickland Bros. Enterprises Inc., P.O. Box 536, 3622 Wiggins Rd., Spring Hope, N.C. 27882 (ph 252-478-3058; sales@stricklandbros.com; www.stricklandbros.com).