Bale forks mount on a 4 by 4 mast mounted above the loader mounting brackets.

LETS YOU STACK BALES IN ANY POSITION

Rotating Big Bale "Grab"

You can pick up a big bale on its side and set it down on its end with this new rotating bale "grab".

Invented and manufactured by Lou Cleghorn of Advance Designs & Mfg., Kamiah, Idaho, the innovative bale handler mounts on any front-end loader (Cleghorn recommends at least a 100 hp. tractor). The bale grab mounts on a 4 by 4-in. mast just above the loader mounting brackets. Opposing bale forks are operated by a pair of hydraulic cylinders. A third cylinder, mounted about halfway up the mast, is used to rotate the bale forks 1/4 turn. It pushes or pulls on a lever at the base of the bale grab forks.

"It lets you pick up a bale in any position and lay it down in any position without releasing the bale to reposition the tractor. It's great for picking up bales flat in the field and then stacking them on end," says Cleghorn, noting that the tilt cylinders on the loader are used to tip the bale forks down to the ground and to place bales inside bale feeders.

Cylinder mounted on mast turns bale grab forks 1/4 turn.

Sells for $2,600. Requires an extra set of remotes and control valves. Cleghorn also makes a non-rotating bale grab with horizontally-mounted bale forks that slide up and down the mast. Sells for $1,350. He also makes a bale spears, spinner spears, pallet forks, and other equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Advance Designs & Mfg., Rt. 2, Box 131, Kamiah, Idaho 83536 (ph 800 821-6655 or 208 935-0643).

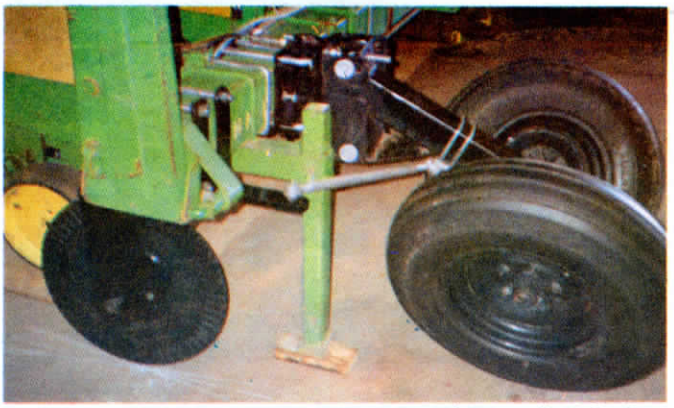
Car Windshield Wiper Motor Controls Markers On Grain Drill

Bill McLaren, Maidstone, Sask., uses a windshield wiper motor off an old car and 80 ft. of rope to raise or lower the markers on his grain drill.

McLaren mounted the motor on a vertical steel post at the center of the drill. The windshield wiper motor turns a 15-in. long steel shaft that winds up two lengths of rope, one running to either end of the drill. A large steel washer divides the shaft in two, with one rope wound around either side. As the shaft turns, the rope winds up on one side of the washer and unwinds on the other side, raising the marker on one side of the drill and lowering the other side.

McLaren disconnected the automatic return circuit on the wiper motor so it can be reversed using a two-way switch in the cab. "I didn't know if the motor would have enough power to lift the markers, but it isn't a problem because the markers are balanced so well," says McLaren.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill McLaren, B & D Farm Ltd., Box 403, Maidstone, Sask., Canada S0M 1M0 (ph 306 893-4751).



Tie rod runs from hinged V-wheels to pivoting coulter, which "steers" end of toolbar.

NO ELECTRONICS, NO HYDRAULICS

First All-Mechanical Row Guidance System

"Farmers who've seen it can't believe how well it works and how simple it is," says Howard Ham, one of the developers of a revolutionary new all-mechanical guidance system for ridge-till planters, cultivators, and other implements.

"It keeps the planter on the row as well or better than any other guidance system on the market but without the use of complicated electronics or hydraulics," says Ham. "When we held our first field demonstration this fall, manufacturers of conventional guidance systems told us they'd tried to come up with a reliable all-mechanical system for years but that this was the first one they'd ever seen that got the job done."

Ham says the new system has been field-tested for two years on over 2,500 acres. It was designed by Lou Siebert, a mechanical engineer and machinist in Henderson, Neb., and Richard Fixemer, a farmer near Sutton, Neb. Fixemer originally purchased a 3-pt. mounted electric-over-hydraulic guidance system for a planter but wasn't satisfied with the performance. He modified it by mounting a hinge on the planter V-wheels so they would pivot as they followed the ridge. Then he put an electronic sensor on the hinge so it would signal shifts in planter position to the hydraulic guidance hitch. Fixemer says the modificaton improved performance but the system still wasn't accurate enough.

That's when Lou Siebert suggested connecting the hinged V-wheels with a 22-in. dia. coulter that would actually guide the planter. They mounted the coulter on a hinging bracket near one end of the toolbar and ran a tie rod from the coulter to the hinged V-wheels so that when the V-wheels turn, the coulter turns too.

"It works like the rudder on a boat," says Siebert, explaining that by mounting the coulter toward one end of the toolbar, it has the leverage to swing even a big planter or cultivator.

Ham says most farmers who first see the system don't believe the coulter will exert enough force to swing the planter. "One way to understand the principle is to think of handling a 12-ft. long 2 by 4. If you try to pivot it back and forth by grabbing it in the middle, it takes considerably more force than if you just move one end of it back and forth."

On smaller planters and cultivators, one coulter is enough to shift the planter back and forth. On a 12-row or larger, Ham recommends mounting a system at either end, or you could put a coulter and tie rod on both sides of a set of V-wheels.

Ham says the patent pending system can be adapted to existing V-wheels, or you can buy a complete kit. Suggested dealer price is $2,800. Ham says he, Siebert, and Fixemer have set up a company to produce units on a limited basis but they're looking for dealers, distributors and manufacturers interested in the idea.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Ham, F.S.H., Inc., Rt. 1, Box 1, Saronville, Neb. 68975 (ph 402 773-4846).

"Flowerbed" Brightens Farmyard

"I always read FARM SHOW and enjoy the great variety of ideas you present. However, I'd like to see a few more ideas from farm wives," says Iva Ungs, who sent along a photo of a colorful "flowerbed" she set up alongside her home near New Vienna, Iowa.

Her flowerbed actually is a bed filled with flowers. "I found an old iron bed in the attic and painted it light yellow to match the color of our house. It's 29 in. wide. I boxed it in with 6-ft. long landscape timbers which I also painted yellow and then filled with dirt. Then I filled the area in and around the bed with colorful flowers."