



Accumulator attaches to back of baler and rides on single castor fitted with dual wheels. Bales exit bale chamber onto small table that holds three bales end-to-end.

FARMER ALSO BUILT FRONT-END GRAPPLE ATTACHMENT TO HANDLE STACKS

Built-From-Scratch 21-Bale Accumulator

"To my knowledge, there's never been anything like it on the market," says Curt Richards, Rolling Hills, Alberta, about his totally automatic, built-from-scratch bale accumulator that lays down flat stacks of 21 bales at a time, all laying on their sides so bale strings are up off the ground. What's more, Richards also made his own grapple attachment for his front-end loader to handle the stacks.

He built the equipment in his shop last winter using about \$2,500 worth of new materials, with everything else coming off his scrap pile. He didn't get to see if the system actually worked until he got out to the field with his Deere 466 baler this summer.

"After a few adjustments, it worked out exactly as I designed it without reducing the capacity of the baler at all. It saves us a tremendous amount of time handling bales," says Richards. "I plan to build another accumulator next winter since we need two balers for our operation."

The accumulator attaches to the back of the baler and rides on a single castor fitted with dual wheels. Bales exit the bale chamber onto a small table that holds three bales end-to-end. When the third bale is pushed onto the table, a lever is tripped, automatically triggering a hydraulic cylinder that lifts the bales up onto the main table. Bales are rotated 1/4 turn onto their sides as they're lifted onto the table. Each row pushes the previous row over until there are 7 rows. A buzzer sounds in the cab when the accumulator is full and the operator trips the main table from the cab, dumping all 21 bales

together on the field.

All bale handling is done with Richards' home-built grapple that mounts over the bucket on his front-end loader. He can haul 300 bales at a time back to the stackyard on his trailers.

One reason no one has manufactured a 21-bale flat stacker in the past is that the stack gets in the way of the tractor and baler after it's dropped in the field. Richards got around that problem by modifying his Deere baler so it trails directly behind the tractor, with the tractor straddling the windrow.

"This was accomplished with a pto-driven double belt drive mounted on a frame at the front of the baler. I also equipped the baler with a belt-driven hydraulic pump and reservoir tank so the baler is completely self-contained. A double pulley mounts directly over the tongue of the baler. A double belt runs from there to a pulley mounted on the baler's pto input shaft. A belt off that pulley drives the hydraulic pump," notes Richards.

"The baler is easier to operate now with the tractor directly over the swath and the accumulator has no adverse affect at all on our baling operation. Bales can be handled quicker and put into a stack that's superior to what we used to get with our New Holland stacker," says Richards.

One of the trickiest parts of building the new bale-handling system was making the grapple teeth. He cut them out of flat iron and then heated them before bending them around a jig.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Curtis Richards, Box 33, Rolling Hills, Alberta T0J 2S0 Canada (ph 403 964-3737).



Bales are rotated 1/4 turn onto their sides as they're lifted onto table. Each row pushes previous row over until there are 7 rows.



Richards modified baler to run directly behind tractor with pto-driven belt drive.

DISCHARGES DUST TO SIDE OF COMBINE BEHIND HEADER

New Header-Mounted Combine Dust Vacuum

"It removes dust from the header instead of the feederhouse, unlike other combine dust diverters that are on the market," says the inventor of a new type of dust vacuum for combines.

Wade Little, Decker, Manitoba, showed a prototype of his unit, which he made for his New Holland combine, at the Western Farm Progress Show in Regina, Sask. A steel shroud mounts across the width of the header's feederhouse opening to catch dust rising from the header auger. A flexible plastic hose extends from a fan mounted above the shroud to the side of the combine behind the header.

"It greatly improves visibility by keeping dust off the windshield and helps keep engine air filters clean," says Little. "I built it two weeks before harvest last fall and used it on peas, barley, and wheat. It worked better than I expected. I think it would also work in soybeans. Other dust vacuum systems suck dust from a hole on top of the feederhouse. However, on most combines most of the dust is caused by the impact of the header auger and feeder chain on the crop."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wade Little, Box 44, Decker, Manitoba, Canada R0M 0K0 (ph 204 562-3538).



Steel shroud mounts across width of header's feederhouse opening to catch dust rising from header auger.

Drive Chain Release Kit For Deere 750 No-Till Drill

The same Deere dealer who manufactures a popular drive chain release kit for Deere Max-Emerge planters recently introduced a drive chain release kit for Deere 750 no-till drills.

The specially-made chain release sprocket, installed in place of the ground drive sprocket, lets you disengage the drive sprocket when transporting the drill. With the drive in the released position, there are no moving parts on the drill, totally eliminating wear when it isn't planting.

The kit installs in about 45 min., according to Lynn Hufford of Jackson-Lee-Pearson, Inc., Flora, Ind., and consists of a hinge kit for the drive chain safety shield so you can get quick access to the drive sprocket. Then you replace the original one-piece drive sprocket with a 2-piece sprocket and hub.

To release the chain, you simply turn a



small lever on the sprocket, disengaging the hub from the sprocket so the hub turns inside the sprocket without engaging it.

Sells for \$165.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson-Lee-Pearson, Inc., Box 27, S.R. 75, Flora, Ind. 46929 (ph 219 967-4164).



Richards also built grapple attachment for his front-end loader to handle stacks.