Hydraulic spike loads the feeder and can withdraw to pick up a second bale.

ONE MACHINE DOES IT ALL

First Round Bale Feeder For Pickups

So far as we know, the new round bale retriever and feeder built by Bill Stronski, Claresholm, Alberta, is the first device ever built that lets you feed out round bales with a pickup.

The new all-hydraulic bale handler fits into the bed of ¾ or 1-ton pickups with just four bolts. It removes quickly for storage when not in use.

The unroller consists of a heavy-duty rubber belt supported by four large drum rollers. Bales are lifted onto the belt by a hydraulic bale spike on the rear of the pickup, then turned at about 1 rpm by the drum-powered belt. A spiked-tooth bar along one side of the bale turns the opposite direction of the bale and peels off hay. It'll feed into bunks or onto the ground at operator-controlled rates.

The unit handles bales up to 6 ft. in dia. A hydraulic pump mounts under the hood to power the drum rollers and the bale spike.

Stronski says the bale spike was the most challenging design aspect of the bale feeder since the spike has to be able to load the bale on the pickup and then withdraw to pick up another in the field. A special 2-cylinder design accomplished it. Stronski plans to mount a second spike-tooth bar on the other side of the pickup so bales can be unloaded on either side. The company plans to go into production on the new bale handler this fall. It will sell for $5-$6,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Goldridge Manufacturing, Ltd., Box 1360, Claresholm, Alberta, Canada TOL OTO (ph 403 625-4431).

After an adaptor clip is bolted to cultivator shank, sweeps can be changed quickly with only a hammer.

NO TIME-CONSUMING BOLTS TO TURN

"Nok-On" Sweeps For Cultivators

Now you can quickly change sweeps on your field cultivator without scraping your knuckles trying to remove stubborn bolts, thanks to "Nok-On" Sweeps from Ralph McKay Ltd., Regina, Sask.

The sweeps are simply knocked into place using a unique fastening clip that bolts to the cultivator shank in place of the conventional sweep, using the same two original bolt holes.

Nok-On sweeps, specially designed for the adaptor clip, have formed edges that fit over the edge of the clip. Tap the end of the sweep a couple times with a hammer and you're ready to go.

Removing the sweep is just as easy. Tap down on it a few times and off it comes. "Changeover time is reduced by up to 75%," says the manufacturer.

The sweeps are made from the same high grade steel as the company's conventional sweeps. The clips sell for 60¢ each and the sweeps, available 4 to 11 in. long to fit most cultivators, for $4.30 to $4.75 each.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph McKay Ltd., 130 Hodsman Road, Regina, Sask. S4N 5X4 (ph 306 545-9292).

PRODUCES EVEN, SAME-SIZE BALES WITH LESS ADJUSTMENT

New Refit Kit For Conventional Balers

"Experience is a great teacher," says Ivan Gabrysh about the lessons he's learned running a baler repair service in Hague, Sask. He's developed a refit kit for conventional square balers that, he says, solves many of the problems on balers which farmers have brought to him for fixing.

The kit consists of a single-spring press that's designed to produce more evenly-compressed bales and do less damage to the bale chamber. The kit also includes a special designed floating meter wheel that Gabrysh says stops balers from producing bales of varying lengths. Both components of the kit can be purchased separately.

"Older balers have a spring on each side and new balers have an upright hydraulic press. Both systems are built too solid with no give. As a result, the bale chamber bends or breaks, or other working parts fail. Our one-spring press has enough up and down movement to reduce stress on the baler while producing more even bales. Because it's flexible, it requires less adjustment as moisture content, windrow size, or hay consistency changes. Once it's set, bales will stay the same size," says Gabrysh.

The one-spring press fits most balers, new or old, and sells for $284. It installs by simply unbolting or cutting away the old spring or hydraulic-operated press.

Gabrysh has also developed a metering wheel that replaces the existing wheel and shaft. He says the reason bales generally vary in length by as much as 6 to 8 in. is because the teeth on metering wheels are too long and rounded on the ends.

"When bales are loose, the teeth sink in all the way. When bales are tight, the teeth walk on top of the bale. This alters the rotation of the wheel as it turns on the shaft, making the bale shorter or longer," he explains.

The new meter wheel has shorter, sharp teeth designed to go in at the same depth at all times. The wheel is mounted on a floating shaft rather than a rigid one so that when bales are tight and the wheel does ride slightly higher, it won't bend the shaft as on conventional balers.

"Most bales produce bales that vary as much as 6 to 8 in. in length. Our wheel reduces the variation to just 2 to 3 in. Bales can never be the exact same size because the size of the windrow varies, as does the consistency," says Gabrysh.

The metering wheel sells for $166. Gabrysh is looking for dealers for the kit, which comes with full instructions.

Kit consists of a single-spring bale press and a floating meter wheel.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ivan Gabrysh, Hague Baler Service, Highway 11, Box 612, Hague, Sask. SOK 1XO (ph 306 225-2227).