Pull-A-Long unit, set into bottom of a 24 in. wide trench, automatically cuts the exact grade and lays the tubing as it's pulled along.

THIS MACHINE AND A BACKHOE ARE ALL YOU NEED FOR SMALLER JOBS

New Pipe Layer Lets You Tile Your Own Fields

If you've been looking for an economical way to drain those potholes and smaller fields that always seem to be wet, here's a new do-it-yourself machine that makes tiling nearly as easy as digging a ditch.

"Finding a contractor to tile small jobs — say 1 to 3 acres — can be difficult, if not impossible, because most contractors can't afford to take on jobs that involve less than 2,500 ft. of pipe," says Carol Lifer, of Knox Equipment Co., Belleville, Ohio, designers and builders of the new pipe layer, and operators of a custom tiling business.

Lifer says the company developed the "Pull-A-Long" pipe layer in order to do jobs that don't justify use of expensive tilers. Now, the company is building and selling the machine and renting it to do-it-yourselfers.

The pipe layer is 4-ft. high, 8 ft. long, 21 in. wide and weighs about 1,000 lbs. Here's how it works:

You start digging a ditch — 24-in. wide works best — with a backhoe. The pipe layer, which can be carried easily by a tractor loader, is then set into the bottom of the ditch. Grade controls are set up in the unit and you thread the tubing through the pipe layer as you pull it in the ditch behind the backhoe. It cuts the grade, and lays the tubing. A built-in wheel holds the tubing in place while trailing rippers cover it with dirt. Grade is controlled by pressure placed on the front cutting lip on the pipe layer.

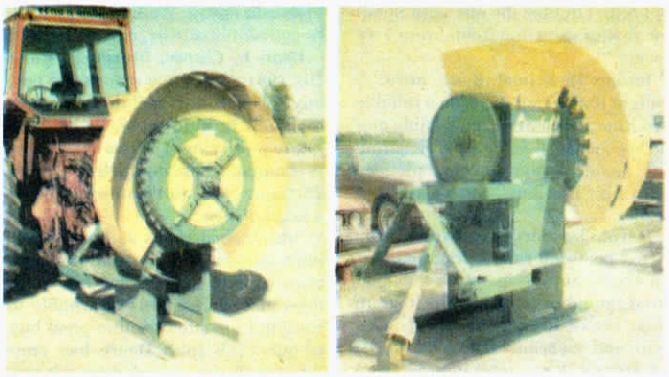
A spring-loaded bail hitch lets you pull the pipe layer with the teeth on the backhoe bucket. It swings down so the pipe layer pulls straight and level. At the end of the pull, you just lift the backhoe bucket up and the bail will unhook from the bucket and swing up out of the way for the next cut.

"The pipe layer has proved its success after 18 months in the field, laying over 100,000 ft. of tubing. It has laid tubing with 2 ft. of water standing in the ditch; in sand and gravel soils where the banks cave in; and in 12-ft. deep cuts that tiling machines and plows would have difficulty reaching," says Lifer.

He notes that farmers can either rent the unit or buy one to do their own work, and then contract out to neighbors.

The pipe layer sells for $2,100 equipped with grade control. A unit without grade controls sells for $1,800.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carroll D. Lifer, Knox Equipment Co., P.O. Box 308, Bellville, Ohio 44813 (ph 419 886-2548, or 886-2549).



The new cuber, powered by a 125 hp or larger tractor, has a capacity of 3 to 5 tons (of finished cubes) per hour.

"COST-EFFECTIVE FOR SMALLER FARMS"

Lundell Unveils First Pto-Driven Cuber

First on the market with a pto-driven cuber is Lundell Mfg., Cherokee, Iowa. "So far as we know, it's the first and only pto-driven cuber in the world," says Vernon Lundell, president and inventor of what he calls "a lower-cost, farm-sized cuber with high capacity".

The new cuber, operated by a 125 hp or larger tractor, turns hay, stalks, soybean residue and other materials into 1¾ in. dia. cubes for feed or fuel at the rate of 3 to 5 tons (of finished cubes) per hour. The first machines off the assembly line will carry a price tag of $18,000 to $19,000, which is about one third the cost of Lundell's stationary cuber, introduced 17 years ago. "Our original cuber is still a popular machine but its price has put it beyond the reach of all but very large farms. Our new pto-driven model, which lets the farmer use horsepower he already owns, makes cubing cost-effective for smaller farms," Lundell points out.

He notes that the pto-driven cuber uses two rollers to move material into stationary 1¾ in. dia. die cells that form the cubes. Cube density is rated at 25 to 30 lbs. per cu. ft.

"We think it will find an important place in cashing out low cost alternative fuels for drying crops or heating homes. For example, corn stalks run through a tub grinder and then into our new cuber make an excellent, easy to handle fuel for drying crops or heating homes. It'll cube straight ground hay, or a mixture of ground hay and grain. It also does a good job cubing corn stalks, soybean residue and even artichoke tops, reports Lundell.

Individual cubers for feed or fuel are 1¾ in. in dia.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lundell Mfg., Cherokee, Iowa 51012 (ph toll free 800 831-4841; Iowa residents dial 800 352-4639).

Spring-loaded ball hitch lets you pull the pipe layer with the teeth on the backhoe bucket.