



Strawser used the running gear off a light-duty wagon to build his own bale wrapper. The arm that holds wrapping material was bought from a bale wrap manufacturer.



The rig's two wrapping rollers were made by a local machinist.

## Home-Built Bale Wrapper Mounts On Wagon Frame

By Lewis Durst

"My neighbor Allan Strawser built his own pull-type round bale wrapper.

"He started with the running gear off a light duty wagon and mounted a frame on it that's built from 2 by 6-in. steel that he bought at a sale. The rig's two wrapping rollers were made by a local machinist, and the arm that holds the wrapping material was bought from a bale wrap manufacturer. Everything else on the wrapper was handmade with the exception of some hydraulic motors, hoses and valves.

"Instead of using a hydraulic motor to operate each wrapping roll separately, as most factory wrappers do, he used only one motor and drives the other roll with a sprocket and chain. The bale is kept centered by two guide wheels, which are the front wheels off a garden tractor. Once the bale has been wrapped the operator uses a hydraulic cylinder to discharge it.

"The wrapping part of the machine is built on a hinge. After the bale rolls off you pull forward the width of the bale and raise the rollers, and you're ready to wrap another bale. It works like a charm.

"After wrapping a few bales, Allan decided to add some round baler belts to the wrapping rollers to help grab the bales.

"He uses a Deere 5205 MFWD 50 hp loader tractor to load bales onto the wrapper. He says he doesn't make enough hay to justify purchasing a 100 hp tractor, which would be required to operate a 3-pt. mounted wrapper on our hilly terrain. He uses an Allis Chalmers WD tractor to power the wrapper.

"I don't know how much he spent to build the wrapper, but I know it was only a fraction of the cost of a commercial wrapper."

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Fence post drops into a short pipe welded to a base made from welded-together grader blades. Post holders are heavy enough to allow an 80-ft. span between posts.



## Portable Electric Fence Post Holders

Kim Nielson, a Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, farmer, needed portable electric fence post holders so he could move cattle around easily when grazing on swaths.

For a sturdy base, Nielson cut 7-ft. used grader blades into 16-in. long pieces and welded two of them together to form a "T". Next, he welded a 6-in. piece of 3/4-in. pipe near the intersection of the grader blade welds. A fiberglass electric fence post drops into the pipe.

The post holders are heavy enough to allow about an 80-ft. span between posts. Each finished base weighs between 10 and 12 lbs., depending on how worn the blades are.

Nielson first tried welding the blades in an

"X" pattern but found it was too time consuming to make.

Although the bases are very sturdy and stable, they're easily moved in winter (even when frozen down) by loosening with a hammer and carrying them to the next location, according to the rancher.

In Nielson's area, used grader blades sell for about \$2 for 7 ft. Since the cut lengths vary slightly, he says each post holder costs about 66 cents.

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Inventor-manufacturer Jim Lindquist says old New Idea Uni-Systems make the ideal power units for his self-propelled 40-ft. long, 36-in. wide grain conveyors.

## He Buys New Idea Uni-Systems

Got an old New Idea Uni-System? Owners are getting more value out of those older power units, thanks to Jim Lindquist. The Nebraska inventor and manufacturer says they're the ideal power unit for his self-propelled, 40-ft. long, 36-in. wide conveyors.

"We've been building big grain conveyors for 20 years," says Lindquist. "They're great for moving large quantities of grain fast, and the Uni-Tractor power unit is the only component we don't build ourselves."

Lindquist's company builds a number of specialty products for regional farmers and businesses. He prides himself on having parts on hand or being able to make the ones he doesn't. That's one reason he is always on the lookout for New Idea Uni-Tractors in good shape, even advertising for them.

"All too often a farmer will sell one at an auction, and it goes for the price of scrap iron," he says. "Depending on the shape it's in, we can often triple the value of what a farmer would get for it at auction."

Lindquist goes over the used tractors with a fine-toothed comb. The Sunstrand hydrostats are pulled and flushed, and the Cummins engines are tested and graded.

"When they go out of here, we know the ground drive and the engine are good," says Lindquist. "Two thirds of the time they don't even need any service."

The conveyor is fed by a 24-in. dia. auger, available in 9 or 12-ft. widths. The operator sits in a climate-controlled cab with swivel seat and controls the height and speed of the auger and conveyor separately. The system can handle more than 300 bu. of grain per minute and travel down the road at up to 14 mph. Lindquist prices the conveyor at around \$38,000 plus the price of the Uni-Tractor, which can vary.

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