



Cecil Scott modified an H&S 27-ft. rake to pull his round baler. "It eliminates the need for a separate raking pass and turns baling hay into a one-man operation," he says.

## New Way To Bale While You Rake

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

"It's not the first one-pass haying system ever, but I think it's the best," says Cecil Scott, Porter, Texas, who modified an H&S 27-ft. rake to pull any brand of round baler.

The system eliminates the need for a separate raking pass and turns baling hay into a one-man operation, says Scott. The rake is available with the modification kit installed or you can buy a kit to install on any H&S or Pioneer rake model.

"I came up with the idea because I had trouble finding anyone to run my hay rake while I baled," says Scott. "Rakes designed to mount on front of the tractor create a lot of dust which can cause problems with air and oil filters. You can buy rake wheels that mount directly onto the baler, but they're awkward to use and difficult to disconnect.

Disconnecting the baler from my rake is as simple as pulling a pin and unhooking the quick-disconnect hydraulic hoses."

The baler is pulled a full 22 ft. behind the tractor and is operated by a long pto shaft. The baler hooks up to a drawbar on back of the rake.

The rake rides on dual wheels for added stability and is strengthened by the addition of a steel "pull bar" at the bottom, which also supports the pto shaft.

To modify a rake, Scott cuts 6 ft. off the front part of the rake's tongue and adds a drawbar on back. Loops and tubes are welded onto the top part of the rake to secure the rake's hydraulic hoses and wiring that leads to a bale monitor in the tractor cab.

To move from one field to another you can

just lift the rake and fold it to its normal width of 8 ft.

"The baler is located 22 ft. behind the tractor so the dust it makes won't cover your tractor cab," notes Scott. "Because of the CV joint on front of the pto shaft, it's just like raking hay - the rake and baler follow you wherever you go. It works great in small fields, too, because the rake can be opened and closed to go through small areas without the operator ever leaving the tractor seat. Another advantage is there's no windrowed hay to blow away."

He says three years ago, Texas A & M University did a study on what it costs to rake and bale hay. "They found you can save 40 percent by raking and baling at the same time. And that was when fuel cost less than today."

The kit includes the main pull bar, pto shaft, a new set of shortened-up hydraulic hoses, and new electrical wire for the baler monitor. It also includes a Fasse hydraulic diverter valve that mounts on front of the rake, so if your tractor has only two remotes you can still operate both machines. It takes two men about four hours to install the kit on an H&S rake.

The system requires about 20 more horsepower than operating the baler alone.

The rake sells for \$16,900 F.O.B. The kit sells for \$5,900.

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## He Built His Own Tandem Disk

"I didn't want to use a big disk to level off small areas of my fields. So I built a 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. offset disk using materials I had on hand. It works great," says Ben Hach, Dysart, Iowa.

The disk is equipped with two sets of gangs that are off his dad's old IH no. 37 tandem disk, which he wasn't using any more. The top part of the disk frame came off a dolly spray tank trailer and was given to him by a friend. The 3-pt. link arms came from a couple of salvage yards.

"I use my early 1960's Minneapolis Moline Jet Star II 45 hp tractor to pull it. It works real nice with this little disk," says Hach. "I use it every spring on both corn and soybean residue to level off small areas in my fields. I

might use it in a place where a badger has been digging, or a rough area where we turned around with the combine at the end of the field, or a gully or a wet spot we had to go through. I can easily loosen some bolts to change the angle of the blades.

"In the past, I always had to take a bigger tractor and disk which tore up more of the field than I liked. Now I can level off just the spots that I want to hit. A small commercial disk of the same size would sell for hundreds of dollars and wouldn't be nearly as heavy as mine."

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Ben Hach built this 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. offset disk from an old tandem disk.

## Tree "Slicer" Built From Silage Cutterhead

"It'll cut trees up to 2 inches in diameter," says Charles Hardenburger, Jr., Haddam, Kansas, who built a skid loader-mounted tree cutter using a cutterhead off an old New Holland pull-type silage harvester.

Hardenburger uses a reversible hydraulic motor to power the unit. The silage cutter's two 12-in. dia. rotary knives do the cutting and mount on a steel frame that hooks up to a Deere 3-pt. quick-tach hitch, which is in turn welded to a universal skid steer attachment plate.

"After we cut the big trees down on our pastures, it doesn't take long before thousands of small trees come up. This machine lets us easily take care of those trees before they get big. As far as I know there's no tree cutter on the market that can cut such small trees as efficiently," says Hardenburger.

The knives were originally driven off the silage cutter's gathering chains. He stripped off the knives, along with the chain-drive components that drove them, and welded them to a homemade channel iron frame. The

hydraulic motor connects to a right angle gearbox that's used to drive the system.

"We've used it for three years. It works great," says Hardenburger. "I already had most of the materials so it cost very little to build. All I bought was the hydraulic motor, hoses, and a cushioning valve. It limits the amount of pressure to the motor, so if we try to cut a tree that's too big the knives will stall instead of breaking. The gearbox came off the straw spreader on a New Holland 1500 combine."

According to Hardenburger, a tractor won't work as well with this system because it's not maneuverable enough. "The skid loader we use has about 45 hp. You don't need a big skid loader but you do need one with external hydraulics.

"We could, however, mount the 3-pt. unit on back of a tractor," he notes.

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Skid loader-mounted tree "slicer" uses a cutterhead off a New Holland pull-type silage harvester. "It'll cut trees up to two inches in diameter," says Charles Hardenburger.