

Roto-Baler Just Keeps On Rolling

Glenn Shultz claims his old Allis Chalmers Roto-Baler can run rings around any new small square baler. He recalls his dad once making 415 bales in less than an hour and a half.

But Shultz says the best thing about the Roto-Baler is that it makes beautiful hay. "Put it up right, and when you roll a bale back out, all the leaves are still on it."

Shultz bought a used Roto-Baler for \$200 when he started farming on his own in 1977. He used it for about 10 years and only replaced a few dollars worth of bolts.

Recently he restored it, repainting, replacing the deck over the top, and putting on new belts.

"The original belts were endless belts, but we use spliced ones now," notes Shultz. "The most difficult part was getting decals.

The only place I could find them was Wacker Decals in Nebraska."

Even Wacker (ph 402 582-4874) didn't have the warning sign that mounted above the conveyer platform. Shultz went to a local sign shop and had one made and fabricated a metal shield to put it on.

He also restored a 1936 Allis WC his dad bought new. He takes the tractor and baler to shows now.

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Glenn Shultz says the old Allis Chalmers Roto-Baler he restored still makes beautiful hay. He bought the baler for \$200 when he started farming on his own in 1977.



Baler Won't Quit And Neither Will Owner

Want your hay and straw baled right? Look no further than 90-year-old Albert Koski and his 60-year-old Allis Chalmers Roto-Baler. He's been using the baler since it was new and this past year made 4,000 bales with it.

"You have to keep every moving part well oiled and greased," says Koski. "If you keep them well greased and under roof, it seems like it'll last forever."

Over the years Koski has made an estimated 300,000 Roto-Baler bales. He bought his first Roto-Baler in 1950. That baler is one of three that son-in-law Jake Jahfetson and daughter Elaine still use on the farm they took over from Albert.

"We talk sometimes about switching to a square baler," says Jake Jahfetson. "But we just keep using the Roto-Baler."

Koski says his reason for staying with the Roto-Baler all these years is simple.

They make good hay. Hay can be baled a little sooner than with a square baler and left in the field for a few days to cure. Unlike a square baler, there is no knife cutting through and dropping leaves.

"I once had a square baler salesman ask me why I stayed with the Roto-Baler," says Koski. "I told him that the top three dairy herds in the DHIA test, with ours being first, all used Roto-Balers because they retain the leaves better. He said he was sorry he had asked."

Koski said the key to making good hay with the Roto-Baler is the windrow. "If you make good windrows and keet the baler oiled and greased, you will have no problems."

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90-year-old Albert Koski has been using his Allis Chalmers Roto-Baler since it was new 60 years ago. This year he made 4,000 bales with it.

Tank Fill "Tube Liner"

The tank fill tubes on Deere combine models sometimes rust or wear out. Replacing the entire tube or repairing it can cost a lot of money. A new tank fill tube liner made from poly solves the problem at a fraction of the cost.

The Poly Tech replacement tube liner provides a slippery surface to keep grain feeding through the tube faster. The one-piece poly liner is 1/8 in. thick and bolts on inside the original fill tube. It comes in a kit that includes all mounting hardware.

"It installs quickly and easily, and is adjustable to accommodate worn or misshaped tubes. It takes only about an hour to install," says Jimmy Rabitsch, Poly Tech Industries, Monticello, Ga.

The liner bolts onto the fill tube on a bearing that carries the top side of the auger. It comes with a stainless steel H-channel with shims that expands the liner until it's tight against the tube.

The poly tube liner kit fits most Deere combine models. The company also plans to make kits for other combine brands. It's testing the same idea on unloading augers and grain carts.

Sells for \$199 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Poly Tech Industries, P.O. Box 349, Monticello, Ga. 31064 (ph 800 542-7659; polytech@polyskid.com; www.polyskid.com).



Poly tank fill tube liner bolts on inside the original fill tube.

3-Pt. Dump Rake Ideal For Clean Up

Dump rakes could be had for \$5 a few years ago when Gabe Davidson bought his. While most people thought they were worthless, Davidson figured a way to put them to use after removing the wheels and seat. With the help of some scrap steel, he mounted the formerly horse-drawn rake on a tractor 3-pt., and the entire project cost him less than \$40.

"I built an A-frame with pins to match the 3-pt. arms on the tractor," he explains. "I welded the fore frame of the rake to the A-frame. This allowed me to pick it up with the 3-pt."

Davidson also retained the dumping mechanism and the old cleaner bars on the rake. To take advantage of them, he mounted a pulley just under the peak of the A-frame where the top linkage connected. He then

ran a light chain from the drawbar over the pulley to a ring he welded to the end of the dump lever.

"When I pick the rake up all the way, the chain tightens and the basket dumps," says Davidson. "If I don't want to dump the contents of the rake, I simply don't raise it as high."

Davidson uses the dump rake in road ditches and for clean up in hay fields. He says it also is perfect for cleaning up small branches pruned from his apple orchard.

"The orchard is where the cleaner bars really come in handy," says Davidson. "When I raise the rake, they clean the twigs right off the forks."

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Gabe Davidson removed the wheels and seat from an old horse-drawn rake, then made brackets to mount it on a tractor 3-pt.