



One-of-a-kind carrier lets Jesse Fisher haul a round or big square bale on 8 wheels without a tractor. It consists of 2 different sections, one on either side of bale.



Front section rides on caster wheels and is equipped with a chain to pull the bale. Back section is equipped with a hinged metal "flapper brake".

"Poor Man's" Big Bale Carrier Needs No Tractor

"We needed an easier way to haul big bales into my dairy barn, so we built a single carrier for round or square bales. It's not flashy, but it works great and cost very little to build," says Jesse Fisher, Gap, Penn.

The one-of-a-kind carrier lets Fisher haul

a round bale on 8 wheels without a tractor. It consists of 2 different sections, one on either side of the bale.

Both sections are made from 2-in. sq. tubing and measure about 3 ft. high. Each one rides on 4 wheels. Both sections are fitted with 3-in. prongs and come-alongs that attach to metal hoops. The come-alongs are used to crank the sections together, so the prongs dig into the bale and lift it off the ground.

The front section rides on caster wheels and is equipped with a chain to pull the bale. The back section is equipped with a 4-ft. long, hinged metal "flapper brake" that hangs from a rubber strap about 2 ft. above the wheels. To activate the brakes when going downhill, the operator removes the strap and lowers the flapper brake onto the wheels, and then stands on it.

Once he's got the bale into the barn, Fisher releases both come-alongs to lower the bale to the ground.

"We're happy with it and wouldn't be without it. Our total cost to build it was about \$500," says Fisher. "We came up with the idea because we have a small farm and can't raise enough hay for our 40 dairy cows. We had been buying small square bales but it got expensive, so to save money we started buying wrapped big round or square bales that weigh about 1,000 lbs. apiece. We cut open the bales and hauled slices into the barn on a wagon, but we needed a better way. So we made some drawings on paper and then went to a neighbor, who helped design and weld everything together."

A rubber tie-down strap is attached to each section. "I hook the straps over the top of the

bale to keep the carrier from falling down until I can hook up the come-alongs," says Fisher.

He says on flat ground one person can pull a loaded bale by himself, but going downhill requires 2 people because someone needs to step on the brakes while the other one steers. It also takes 2 people going uphill – one to pull the bale and one to push it.

"The caster wheels on front are bolted on weight eveners, so the bale's weight is always evenly distributed, which helps on uneven terrain," says Fisher. "Of course, the heavier the bale the harder it is to steer."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jesse S. Fisher, 347 School Lane Rd., Gap, Penn. 17527 (ph 717 442-8958).

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Harold M. Johnson
Founder

Editor/Publisher

Mark Newhall (mark@farmshow.com)

Senior Editor

Bill Gergen (bill@farmshow.com)

Contributing Editors

Jim Ruen (edgecom@acegroup.cc)

C.F. Marley (ph 217 563-2588)

Dee Goerge (dee_goerge@yahoo.com)

Lorn Manthey (redoakridge@mac.com)

Office Manager

Anne Lash (anne@farmshow.com)

Circulation (circulation@farmshow.com)

Peg Nagel, Shelly Mende, Mary Lunde, Sue Romnes, Krista Wetschka

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Email: circulation@farmshow.com

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Both sections are fitted with 3-in. prongs and come-alongs that are used to crank the sections together. The prongs dig into bale and lift it off the ground.

Sprick Trap Modified To Kill Moles

Successful gopher trap inventor Ken Sprick thinks he has another winner on his hands with his new mole trap. The mole trap is based on his original gopher-getter with its top trip design.

"It's very similar to the gopher trap, just a little smaller," says Sprick. "I moved the trip mechanism between the legs and lowered it for the smaller mole."

Like the gopher trap, the trip mechanism hangs down from above. The mole trap legs clamp in and down from above to grab the rodent. The top-trip design ensures moles coming from either direction in the tunnel will trip the trap. It also reduces the chance the trap will become clogged by dirt, as often happens with conventional traps.

The main body of the scorpion-like design contains the powerful tensioning springs. Like the gopher trap, the "tail" of the mole trap has a loop for attaching a stake or wire.

Sprick uses his setting aids similar to beer can openers to pry open the arms and set the trap.



Mole trap legs clamp in and down from above (left), ensuring moles coming from either direction in tunnel will trip the trap.

Sprick is pricing the mole trap at \$8 with the setting tool priced at \$3. Sprick is confident the trap will work as well for others as it has for him. His only concern is being able to fill orders. The retired tool designer and machinist builds all his traps himself with his custom-designed hydraulic press.

"I don't have a supply built up, and since the letter about my gopher trap ran in Best and Worst Buys (Vol. 36, No. 2), I am busy filling orders for it," says Sprick. "If people

order mole traps, I hope they will be patient. I may have to hire someone to help me build traps."

FARM SHOW has one of Sprick's mole traps. Once moles return to the lawn, as they do every year, the trap will get a FARM SHOW trial.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Sprick, 59565 390th Ave., Zumbro Falls, Minn. 55991 (ph 507 753-2337; ksprick@centurylink.net).