

Skid Steer-Mounted "Rock Fork"

"It gives you a fast way to clear fields before planting," says Ed Maas, Eden Valley, Minn., about his new rock fork that makes use of a skid loader's pallet forks.

The patent pending "Rock Star", as Maas calls it, measures about 4 1/2 ft. long and 3 ft. wide and has pockets at the rear that ordinary pallet forks slip into. The unit's 4-ft. long replaceable, hardened steel tines are spaced 3 in. apart. The skid loader's tilt control creates a pitching action that sends rocks to the back of the unit.

To operate, you tilt the tines down below the ground surface as you approach a rock. As the tines go under the rock, you tilt the fork back to pitch the rocks to a holding area on back of the unit. The crossbar that the tines anchor to also acts as a stop to keep rocks at the rear when you tilt the unit down to pick

up the next rock.

The 1 1/8-in. dia. tines mount inside 2 crossbars and are anchored with roll pins. Each tine can be easily replaced by driving out a pin.

"It lets you pick up rocks faster and with less dirt than conventional rock buckets," says Maas. "When I'm in the field I raise the back end of the rock fork 6 in. and then tilt the tines down as I drive forward, sifting the ground surface. I can get quite a few rocks on the tines before I have to tip them back. The only limitation is that it can't dig out real big rocks buried deep in the ground.

"It'll dig out rocks below the surface in compacted ground, but performs best in freshly worked soils by tilting the tines down so their tips are 3 to 6 in. below the surface. Most rocks can be picked on the go without



Rock fork has pockets at the rear that ordinary pallet forks slip into. Skid loader's tilt control creates a pitching action that sends rocks to back of unit.

stopping. It's almost like you're sifting the soil."

There are a series of keyholes on back of the rock fork through which a chain can be run to secure the rock fork to the skid loader. Sells for \$775 plus S&H. Dealer inquiries

welcome. Maas also plans to soon offer a quick-tach bucket-style unit.

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State-Of-The-Art Grain Feeder

Randall Reimer of Cartwright, Man., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of his state-of-the-art Eze-Feeder grain feeder, which is available in several different designs for use on everything from pickups to small tractors and ATV's.

"Back in the fall of 2000, a neighbor asked me to make him a small 40-bu. round tank that he could put in back of his pickup to feed grain to his cattle. He fitted it with his own auger. The next year we were asked to build a few more. That's how we got into the business," says Reimer.

The Eze-Feeder is available in 3 sizes: 45 bu. with a steep 50 degree cone; 70 bu. with a 40 degree cone; and 95 bu. with a 40 degree cone. "The tank's round design has no corners for hang-ups, which ensures easy cleanout," says Reimer.

The inside of the tank is coated with a high quality, 2-part epoxy paint that stands up to feeds or supplements with a high salt or mineral content. "The feeder's 6-in. dia. auger is mounted on bearings for smooth,

quiet, and long lasting operation," says Reimer. "The unit's 12-volt electric auger can be remotely-controlled from the cab of the pickup or by pushing a switch located close to the auger discharge."

Over the years, he has added different options such as an 8-in. dia. vertical mixing auger; an electronic scale with 4 load cells and digital read-out; the option of either hydraulic orbit motor or 12-volt electric drive on the discharge or mixing augers; a trailer kit so the unit can be towed with a pickup, ATV or small tractor; Cat. II or III 3-pt. frames for mounting on larger tractors; and a model with pockets to be used on pickups equipped with hydraulic bale beds.

"Our most recent option is a 12-volt remote-operated lid for the tank," says Reimer. "It can be dangerous and inconvenient for the operator to climb onto an icy or snow-covered deck or pickup bed. Safety has always been our concern, and the addition of the remote-operated tank lid proves it."

Reimer says that until now, the feeders



Eze-Feeder grain feeder is available in several different designs for use on everything from pickups to small tractors and ATV's.

have primarily been sold through a dealer network in western Canada. "However, we're looking to expand into eastern Canada and the U.S. Dealer and distributor inquiries are welcome," he notes.

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Hay Managers hold big bales off the ground so livestock don't waste hay.

Feed-Saving "Hay Manager"

"We're feeding 100 beef cows two big round bales a day with absolutely no waste thanks to my homebuilt Hay Manager," says Ted Lacey of Trent, S. Dak. Developed over the last 15 years on his farm, he's sold them to farmers in the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

"I built it because the feeders on the market were plain crap," Lacey says. "On most of them the bales would lay on the ground or in the mud and cattle would bend them and smaller animals could get inside the ring. Twenty percent or more of the hay was wasted."

Lacey's idea was to use the same round metal band configuration, but use stronger metal. The Hay Manager metal rings are made of 14 ga. steel rather than 20 ga. found on competitive units.

Another distinction is that a Hay Manager holds a bale off the ground to prevent spoilage. Several 3/4-in. steel rods hook to the top metal band, extend down toward the base, and are held together with a heavy-duty chain at the base, about a foot above the ground.

"The bale is wedged between the rods and doesn't touch the ground," Lacey says, "so

the cattle eat the hay off the bottom of the bale first. They eat the loose hay that falls inside the ring and don't pull it outside on the ground."

"We built this strong because we've got 100 head of cows and we know what animals can do to weak metal," Lacey says.

His Hay Manager for cattle weighs about 475 lbs. compared to competitive models that weigh 150 to 200 lbs.

"I've used a couple of my Hay Managers for 10 years and they're not bent at all. The ones we've sold we haven't had any complaints whatsoever," Lacey says.

His Hay Manager design is now being built in different sizes for sheep, horses and calves.

"We've had a lot of experience with our own cattle using the Hay Manager and we're confident we've got a product that reduces waste to less than 2 percent and can stand the abuse that livestock dish out," Lacey says. Prices range from \$400 to \$700 FOB Trent, S. Dak.

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Triangular-shaped mounting bracket fits receiver hitch on pickup, allowing winch to be attached vertically, horizontally, or at a 45 degree angle.

Bracket Holds Winch At 3 Different Angles

"I use a winch on my Dodge Ram for many jobs around the property. It mounts in the truck's receiver hitch," says Zachary Moss, Hernando, Fla.

"I often use it to lift loads in the barn or in the field by running the winch cable up to a pulley on a beam or tree branch. The problem was that the cable would often rub on the winch opening.

"I solved the problem by making a new triangular-shaped mounting bracket to fit the receiver hitch. Now the winch can be attached vertically, horizontally, or at a 45 degree angle. Works great."

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Mounting bracket design keeps cable from rubbing on winch opening.