



Loader-mounted "Accumagrapple" gathers up 8 to 10 small square bales in the field. It eliminates the need for a separate accumulator.



Once the bales are gathered together, they can be loaded onto a truck or trailer, with the same piece of equipment.

Loader-Mounted Bale Accumulator Doubles As Grapple

"Our new Accumagrapple is a loader-mounted bale accumulator and grapple fork in one. It lets you gather bales in the field, load them onto a trailer or truck, and unload them using the same piece of equipment," says Larry Jordan, national sales manager for Maxilator Hay Equipment, Rockmart, Ga.

The patent-pending Accumagrapple is designed to mount on front of any skid loader or tractor loader and handles 8 to 10 small

square bales of hay at a time. Bale size can vary from 36 to 42 in.

Made from rectangular tubing, the unit is open on front and divided into 4 compartments. To load bales, the operator lines up with a bale as he drives forward. Once all 4 compartments are full, 2 more bales can be added to form a tie stack by bumping one end of each bale with the unit's center divider, which causes the bale to turn

sideways. The operator simply backs up to leave the stack laying in the field.

By removing the accumulator's divider plates and bars, it quickly converts to a grapple fork for off loading and stacking of bales. The grapple can be used right handed or left handed, depending on which side of the trailer you unload from.

"Using one piece of equipment to pick up, load and unload hay just makes sense. You

spend less time and use less fuel and labor to get the job done," says Jordan.

The Accumagrapple Elite has a manufacturer's suggested list price of \$5,700.

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Martin uses the "Slick Hitch" to quickly hook up to forage wagons.



"Slick Hitch" Makes Wagon Hook-Up Easy

Here's a quick-hitch that's different than other quick hitches we've seen in the past.

Invented by Lloyd Martin, the "Slick Hitch" consists of 2 parts—a unit that mounts on the tractor drawbar and has a long "tail" rod bolted onto it that's free to swivel up or down, and a set of V-shaped metal rods spaced about 26 in. apart that attach to the wagon tongue.

To hook up to a wagon, the tractor driver lines the tail rod up anywhere inside the V-shaped rods and backs up. The V-shaped rods slide up and over the tail rod until it hits a pair of hardened steel jaws that automatically engage. The weight of the wagon tongue going "over center" on the tail rod causes the tail rod to automatically flip up without dragging on the ground.

To unhook the wagon, the operator pulls on a cable that releases a locking pin and automatically opens the hardened jaws.

"It's a fast and easy way to hook up to a wagon because you don't have to back up dead center with the wagon tongue," says Martin. "It works great if you're pulling a forage chopper where you have a limited view. It works best with tractor drawbars that are 16 to 20 in. high. Both parts of the hitch are built heavy and weigh 75 lbs. a set."

The Slick Hitch sells for \$420 per set plus S&H. Additional wagon hookups sell for \$150 plus S&H.

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Teflon-Coated Light Bulbs Kill Birds, Says Farmer

Don't use Teflon-coated light bulbs in chicken coops or other closed areas with birds. Teflon is toxic to birds. Unfortunately, not all Teflon-coated bulbs are labeled as such, says Lynn Chong, who found this fact out the hard way. She installed a GE Rough Service Worklight 100 in her chicken coop on a Sunday morning. When she came back that night, all 19 birds were dead...stretched out like they were gasping for air. In fact, they had drowned in their own lung fluid due to PTFE/Teflon gassing.

"I took four of them to the University of New Hampshire Extension Service veterinarian the next day. After an initial exam, she did electron microscopy of lung tissue," recalls Chong. "She called to ask if I had any Teflon in the chicken shed. I told her no. The only thing different was the new light bulb that morning."

The vet Googled the bulb and reported

back that it was coated with Teflon (GE has since removed website mention of Teflon on the bulb). She explained, and Chong later learned from other sources, that Teflon Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is hazardous to birds. Parakeet owners are warned not to keep birds in their kitchens when cooking with Teflon pans. People can also suffer from Teflon flu, a reaction to heated Teflon.

Chong discovered that Sylvania Rough Service Frosted bulbs have a similar coating. However, they are labeled with a warning sticker. It says, "This product contains PTFE. When heated, it creates fumes potentially fatal to confined birds". They also have a yellow sticker that says, "Advanced Safety Coating TEFCOTE".

When Chong contacted GE, they asked her to send the bulb and called it defective. GE's insurance company later offered her \$782 to cover the cost of vet testing and her loss. The

check required a non-disclosure agreement. Chong waited a year and a half for GE to label their bulbs to warn consumers. They never did. She returned the check when she decided to contact the media and share her story.

"It was traumatic and will stay with me," says Chong. "I had one of those birds, a Banty rooster, for nearly 12 years. Others were given to me by friends."

Chong believes GE should label their bulbs like Sylvania does. All their bulbs say that they have a "protective coating" to help contain glass fragments if broken.

Chong has appealed to the American Lighting Association, a trade group, OSHA and the Environmental Protection Agency. She continues to tell her story to the media in hopes that others won't have to go through what she did.

"There is no safe level of Teflon around confined birds," she says. "We should



Sylvania Rough Service Frosted bulbs come with a warning sticker that says the bulb's Teflon coating is potentially fatal to confined birds.

probably be thinking, too, about Teflon and chickens as being like canaries in coal mines. If Teflon/PTFE fumes can kill birds, what do they do to humans, even if more subtly?"

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