

“Owner’s Report” On Haying, Silage Equipment

Are you satisfied with your haying and/or silage equipment? How could it be improved? Have you modified your equipment in any way? Have you tried any management “wrinkles” in handling hay or silage? What equipment would you like to see developed?

These are some of the questions we asked randomly-selected hay and silage equipment owners in an effort to highlight those systems that perform with flying colors, and to pinpoint the “lemons” that fail because of poor performance, or failure of the dealer or company to provide service.

Here are the responses to our “ask the man who owns one” survey:

Are you satisfied with your equipment? How could it be improved?

“Our **Deere 1214** hay conditioner does a good job but we have had trouble with the header frame cracking,” says Leonard Veldhuizen, New Sharon, Iowa. “I’m pleased, however, with our **1980 Deere 3960** forage harvester, especially its 7-ft. pickup unit, the cutterhead set-up, and the two-speed blower fan. I’m hopeful it will be as durable as our previous **Fox super 1000**.”

“You spend more time backing up to unplug the mower than you do cutting hay,” says William Bones, Franksville, Wis., disappointed with his **1980 Owatonna 207** mower conditioner. “Heavy dews are prevalent in our area, which is about five miles from Lake Michigan. The **207** sickle bar mower doesn’t work with dew on the alfalfa and, around the lake, dew doesn’t come off until about noon.”

“Lloyd Bohl, Grant Park, Ill., likes the **Deere 336** twine baler which he bought used. “It runs with a minimal amount of downtime and repair expense. There are two changes I would like to see the manufacturer make. One is to add wedges in the side of the bale chamber to firm up straw bales more, and they should provide a rack to store a day’s supply of twine right on the baler.”

J.W. Pick, Macoun, Sask., is pleased with his **Vermeer** big round baler. “It has good capacity, is relatively trouble free and performs well. I would like to see sturdier bearings and more design consideration to repair and replacement of bearings.”

“It’s trouble-free and will not plug when cutting first-crop hay, which is often down and tangled. It also works good for windrowing cornstalks for baling. It chops up alfalfa too much, though, if it is short and light,” reports David Erickson, Altona, Ill., about his **MC rotary scythe**.

“We can cut as much as a ton a minute,” says Glenn Brooks, Athens, Ala., pleased with his **New Holland 892** forage harvester. “It has plenty of capacity, chops very fine with almost no problems. We’re happy with all our **New Holland** haying equipment.”

Harold Mulhaupt, Valcourt, Quebec, is happy with his **New Holland 1980** Haybine. “It cuts neat, fast and is very efficient.”

“It’s easily attached and does an excellent cutting job under a variety of conditions. It’s really helpful when fields are too soft for the haybine. Most adjustments are easily made

with easy access,” says George F. Smith, Valley Grove, W. Va., pleased with his **1980 New Holland 451** mower. He has a couple suggestions for improvement: “They should design an easier way to remove and replace knives. The head bolt is a little difficult to get at, and the trip pivot can go past center so the mower won’t reposition itself as it should.”

“This **Hesston 5800** round baler has baled over 5,000 bales for us and our customers with very little repair and cost to us. We’re expecting to get that many more bales before any major work is needed. Works great in both hay and cornstalks,” says Jack Pickard, Rhodes, Iowa. “The baler makes a hard core bale which means more hay per bale.”

“We’re happy with this baler because it does a great job on cornstalks. We leave the chopper off the combine and bale the windrow behind the combine. I think the company has made the necessary improvements in their new balers but I’d like to see a better way of holding string after it’s been tied,” says Joe Irwin, Sr., West Terre Haute, Ind., about his **1981 New Holland 851** baler.

D. A. Tschetler, Huron, S. Dak., also says his **New Holland 851** baler was a good buy. “It’s very reliable. However, the pickup should be 12 in. wider on each side to pull in long stem hay. I put homemade rake

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wheels on either side to solve the problem. Also, the hitch should be 2 ft. longer to allow shorter turns without a collision between the tractor tires and the baler.”

“It makes a 20% larger bale and uses less twine,” says Reuben Kruize, Livingston, Mont., about the **1982 605-F Vermeer** round baler which he purchased as farm manager of the Tana Ranch. “It’s well-built and easy to operate. My wife does the baling now. We pull it with a **Deere 4020** and it takes less fuel than our previous **New Holland 850** baler —

which was a constant headache. The **Vermeer**-made bales are firm and stay that way. There’s a minimum of spoilage, yet we find the bales easy to feed. They’re also easy to sell since they’re firm enough to haul well. We bale between 800 and 1,000 tons of alfalfa and barley straw annually on semi-arid sandy soil under a center pivot irrigation system and it’s important that we get our hay put up in less than 10 days,” say Kruize.

“It is the best baler I’ve ever used. Very good capacity and makes the best bale for picking up with a bale wagon. In over 200,000 bales, it hasn’t mistied more than 20 bales,” says Len Taylor, pleased with his **Deere 336** baler. “The only thing I changed was the ¼ turn bale turner. The one **Deere** sent with the machine let the bale slide out without turning it.”

“Some types of hay will wrap around the auger, causing it to throw dust and stones up into the operator’s face,” reports Ron about his **International 4000** swather bought in 1978. “The dealer replaced the auger header with a draper head after trying everything to make it auger hay and grain. **IH** now has a double auger header which can be used for both hay or grain but it costs considerably more than their draper or hay head.”

Carl Row, Bixby, Okla., is pleased with his **1973 Papec 540** silage blower. “It’s 10 years old and we’ve never had a single problem, even during heavy use. I would like to see them make it with airless tires. When you’re cleaning up spilled silage around it with a pitchfork, the air-filled tires are easily punctured.”

“All parts subject to wear are replaceable and can be rebuilt like new at a fraction of new cost,” says W.E. Stockhoff, Dayton, Ore., pleased with his **Freeman 3-twine 330** baler bought in 1973. “It’s an excellent piece of equipment. We’ve had very little trouble in 10 years. It’s heavy-duty in every way and everything still works well. I added a **Farmhand** bale accumulator that works fine.”

Michael Houston, Holliday, Mo., likes his **1981 Vermeer 605-F** big round baler. “It starts bales easily, bales are tighter than with many other balers and also, you can operate it a lot faster than many others. The only improvement I’d make would be to double the tie rods on it to speed up tying.”

Milo D. James, Clay Center, Kan., bought a **1982** bale accumulator from **Hoelscher Co.**, Bushton, Kan. “Bales don’t mildew because it accumulates bales on edge. The only improvement it needs is a vertical roller on the rear table.”

“I’m real pleased with the size and weight of the bales that the **New Holland 851** auto wrap baler produces. The weight ranges from 1,500 lbs. on drier hay up to 2,200 lbs. on

choice hay. I’ve owned an **850** electric tie baler and an **851** hydraulic tie baler. Of these, the auto-wrap system is definitely the best, and the only system I’ll buy in the future. I’d like to see a heavier chain in the baler — like the one in the new **855** balers. I’ve installed an automatic oil dripper system for the main chain on my last four balers and feel it has decreased chain wear dramatically.”

Stanley Hawkinson, Brooklyn, Wis., is happy with his **Deere 716** forage wagon with tandem running gear. “This wagon unloads evenly, is dependable, can be filled full against the beaters, and is built rugged. Each member of the family that uses it likes it. I don’t think it can be beat.”

“I like the hydraulic tensioning because it makes a more compact bale. I also like the automatic twine wrap. The baler has much greater capacity than the **510** it replaces. I’ve baled about 500 bales with no trouble,” says Herbert Weil, Elk City, Okla., about his **1983 Deere 530** round baler.

Clarence E. Morgan, Hay Springs, Neb., owns a **1982 Gehl 1250** chopper and a **1982 Ag-Bag** silage bagging machine. “We’re happy with both machines and plan to stay with bagged silage.”

“We bought a **Deere 336** baler four years ago and are real pleased with it. This is our second **336** baler. We baled for four seasons with the first one without a single miss before selling it to our son-in-law. He is also pleased with it,” says Elmer S. Yoder, Grantsville, Md.

Ivan Miller, Hutchinson, Kan., has had good luck with his **Deere 3960** forage harvester with 2-row head and pickup attachment. “It has a lot of capacity and does an excellent job. The 2-speed blower is handy and the segmented knives work great. If you pick up metal or other foreign objects, the knives give without tearing everything up so you only need to replace a few small knives and not the whole set. The only complaint I have is that it could be built a little heavier at the base of the blower and augers.”

“It’s the easiest way to move big round bales that we’ve tried,” reports Maurice Dule, Glenella, Man., about his **1982 Leon** loader and grapple fork. “The only problem is that it’s heavy on the tires.”

Wayne King, Hamill, S. Dak., likes his **New Holland 850** round baler bought in 1979. “In the three years I’ve used it, I’ve baled some 6,000 bales and the only problem I’ve had is one broken floor chain which the company replaced at no cost to me. I’d like to see the addition of a hydraulic lift to the pickup. I bale some pretty rough areas and this would be a good improvement.”

“I have a **450 New Holland 3-pt.** mower that I bought new in 1967. It’s been very dependable. I am on only my second **New Holland** square baler

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