

Seasonal Dairy Is Good Fit

corn had been.

"Some things grew, some didn't," Ed said.

One drawback the Swopes discovered in converting to pasture was that the grasses took time to become well established.

"It's taken about three years to fill in," Ed said of pasture grasses seeded in fields that used to be in alfalfa.

In the spring of 1999 the Swopes kept 40 bred heifers to freshen on the farm and were back in the milking business. Now they have a milking herd of about 70 cows on pasture.

Water

One of the major challenges the Swopes found in setting up the grazing operation was supplying water to each of the paddocks.

The conservation district helped by cost-sharing the installation of a

combination solar-powered and gravity-flow water system.

By means of a tile drainage system, water from a series of springs in the woods feeds into a 1,000 gallon collection tank. This water is then pumped uphill by a solar-powered pump to a 2,600 gallon underground storage tank. A float in the storage tank controls the switch for the water pump.

The storage tank is located on top of a hill at an elevation higher than any of the pasture land. This allows the water to flow to the pasture paddocks by gravity through underground piping.

Quick-hook coupler units installed in each paddock make it easy to move and reconnect a portable water tub when the cows are moved.

Swope said that system has not failed to produce a steady supply of water to the cows on pasture. The 2,600 gallons of water stored in the tank last through an extended

period of cloudy weather when solar power is weak, he said.

Health And Wealth

Improved cow health and substantial savings on machinery and feed costs are some of the advantages the Swopes are enjoying with the new operation.

Along with a mineral supplement offered free-choice, each cow is fed about 10 pounds of grain per day compared to a rate of 30 to 40 pounds under the old system.

Since starting the pasture-based program, Swope said the herd has seen one case of milk fever, no twisted stomachs, and practically no need of hoof trimming.

"There is a world of difference," he said. "They are much healthier, cleaner cows."

Swope also said that over the past two years, their milk has consistently received a premium price for low bacteria and somatic cell counts.

With most of the tillable acreage



Ed Swope demonstrates the water pressure created by gravity flow at one of the paddocks.

now seeded in permanent grasses, hay-making equipment makes up the main part of the machinery

(Turn to Page 6)

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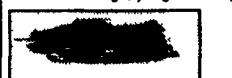
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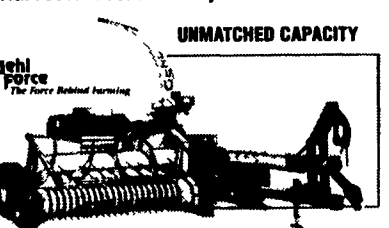
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Wheel diameter 55 1/8" (1400 mm)
Teeth per wheel 40
Working width 21 8" (8.56 m)
Transport width 10 (3 m)
Tire size 175/70x14
Weight 1716 lbs (780 kg)

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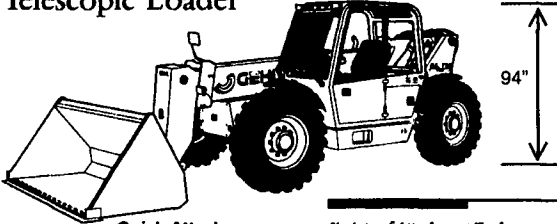


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In Stock at Binkley & Hurst Bros., Inc. The All New Gehl RB 2480S 4x5 Round Baler

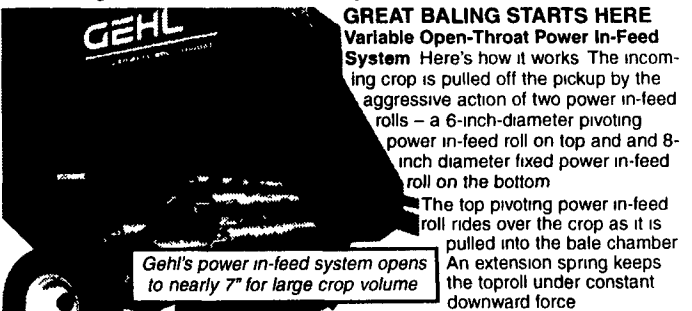


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ROUND BALERS

Featuring the ALL-NEW Variable Open-Throat Power In-Feed System



GREAT BALING STARTS HERE
Variable Open-Throat Power In-Feed System Here's how it works. The incoming crop is pulled off the pickup by the aggressive action of two power in-feed rolls - a 6-inch-diameter pivoting power in-feed roll on top and an 8-inch diameter fixed power in-feed roll on the bottom.

The top pivoting power in-feed roll rides over the crop as it is pulled into the bale chamber. An extension spring keeps the top roll under constant downward force. The spring tension increases as the variable throat opens from a minimum of 3/4 of an inch up to a maximum opening of nearly 7 inches. The constant downward force of the pivoting upper powered in-feed roll, in combination with the fixed lower in-feed roll, both turning inward pinches the crop and forces it into the bale chamber. The stripping roll strips crop off the belt and forces it down to the incoming crop. Adjustable scrapers on the stripping roll and pivoting roll eliminate buildup.

RB2580 SILAGE SPECIAL ROUND BALER
Heavy Duty Silage Special Round Baler
Bale Size - 45" Wide up to 60" in Diameter
Bale Weight - Up to 1,100 Pounds Dry Material
2,000 Pounds Hi-Moisture Material
TDC - Total Density Control System - To Vary Core Size and Bale Density
TDC Pressure Indicator Gauge
Six - 6-1/2" Wide 3-Ply Chevron Surface Belts with Heavy-Duty Plate Belt Lacings
Staggered Belt Trash Clean-out System
Secondary Upper Belt Drive
Clean Sweep Regular or Wide Pickup
Heavy Duty 4-Bar hay Pickup with 2-5/8" Tine Spacing
Crowder Shields
Chain Driven with Shear Bolt Protection
Crank Lift with Down Stop
Baler Overfull Protection with Automatic Reset
Heavy-Duty Rollers and Bearings
Heavy-Duty Drive Chains
Automatic Chain Oiler
Variable Open Throat with Power Infeed System
Belt Idler Roll with Helical Cleaning Bars and Scraper
Dual Twine Wrap with 12 Volt Electric Actuator
Automatic Control Systems
6-Ball Twine Storage
Bale Counter
Mechanical Bale Size Indicator
540 or 1000 RPM Drive
Heavy Duty Constant Velocity PTO Drive Line with Slip Clutch, E-Z Spline Alignment and Auto Lock Collar
31 x 13.5 x 15 6-Ply Rating Floatation Implement
Tires
Driveline and Hose Holder
Highway Lighting
80" Wide Pickup with Two Gauge Wheels with Hyd Lift and with Steering director and Monitor

THREE-BALL TWINE BOX. Gehl balers are designed to keep you going all day long with six-ball twine storage. They're located in full-size doors that open to provide easy access to baler components like an optional chain oiler system or the Total Density Control adjustments.

GAUGE WHEELS. Allow the pickup to follow field contours while keeping lines out of the dirt. That saves wear and tear on the pickup and means less dirt in your bale. Gauge wheels are standard equipment with the wide pickup and an option with some others.

BELTS. Deluxe balers feature chevron belts (pictured above) with heavy duty plate-type belt facing. The belts are 6-1/2 inches wide for close spacing between belts and less space between belts and side sheets. Belts are configured in a staggered pattern to minimize trash build-up.

Before you make a decision on a New Round Baler, see Binkley & Hurst Bros. Inc.