

Custom Bale Wrapper

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more than 20 local farmers.

The in-line wrapper makes a good, tight wrap on the bales because the lead roller that spools out the white poly stretch film is running slightly faster than the roller behind it. This pre-stretches the plastic before it is wrapped around the hay by means of two rotating carriers.

A skid loader is used to lift bales into the wrapper. The whole machine inches forward as it wraps and deposits finished bales on the ground.

With remote control, Hoover can run the whole operation by himself.

While the manufacturer recommends setting the machine speed so that each bale is wrap-

ped in four layers of plastic, Hoover said he thinks that is "a little thin." He prefers eight to nine layers to keep any livestock, rodents, birds, or weather from breaking through the plastic.

Glenn Wenger and his son, Burnell, recently had Hoover wrap some alfalfa for them on their dairy farm near Ephrata. It was the second year the Wengers made use of the wrapper. Wenger said he was pleased with the quality of last year's baleage when it came time to feed it.

Hoover's ingenious wrapping machine was made in Ontario, Canada. Wrapping technology is becoming a much more common sight in the area.

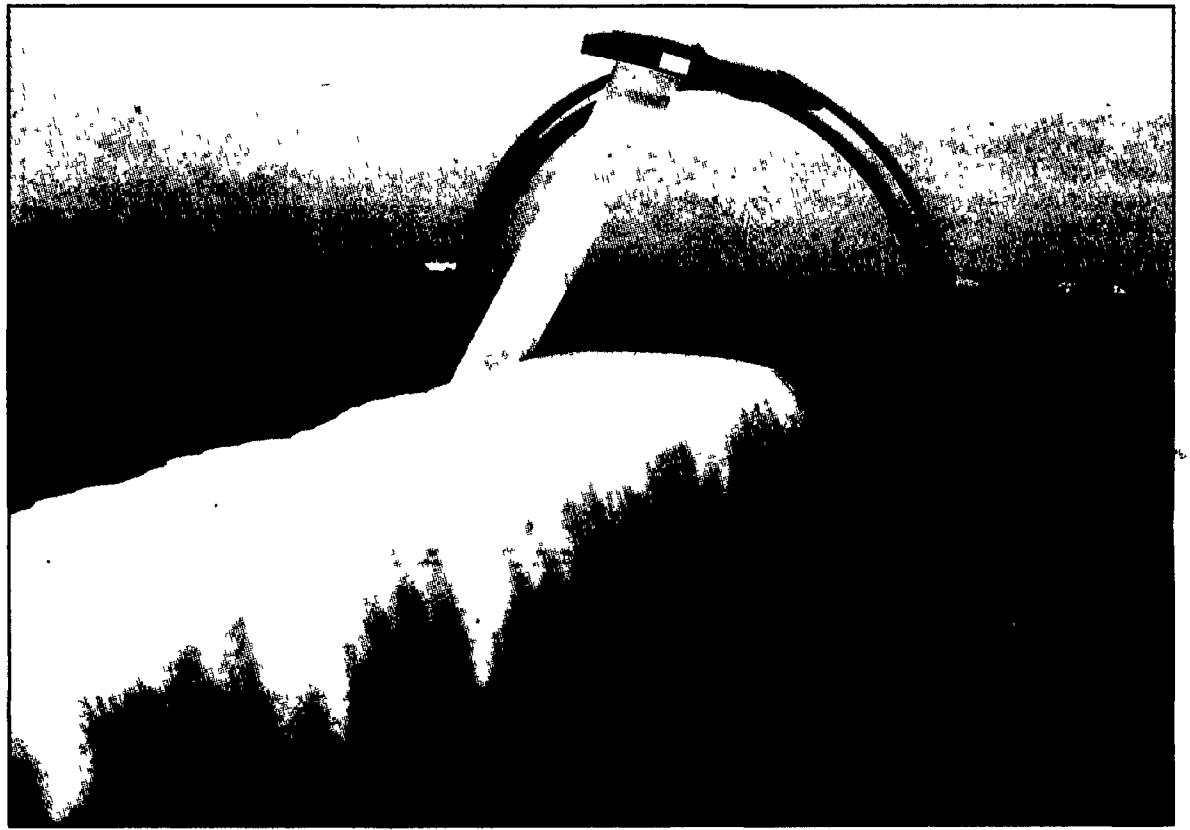
"It's something you didn't see five years ago," Hoover said.



Burnell Wenger, on tractor, goes over plans with Hoover for wrapping about 25 bales of alfalfa recently at the Wengers' dairy farm. Photos by Dave Lefever



Jay Ivan Hoover's younger brother Cleason, right, feeds a Fruit Loop to family dog Spot, while brother Gerald, left, and nephew Travis Brubaker watch.



Hoover runs the wrapper by remote control.

Project Grass Contest

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Project Grass youth department chairperson, said she was thrilled with the youth participation in the new contest, which is slated to continue as an annual event.

Others involved in organizing and judging the contest included

Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State; John Hudak, Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS); Barry Isaacs, NRCS; Carl Rohrer, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; J.B. Harrold, Project Grass grazing specialist; Tom Calvert, grazing specialist; Kathy

Soder, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS); Brian Burke, producer; Beth Hirt, Centre County Conservation District; Robin Heard, Pennsylvania state conservationist; Tom Mat-ticks; western Pennsylvania con-

servationist; Tim Elder, northwest Pennsylvania grazing

specialist; Laurel Hoffman, Armstrong County Conservation District; Malissa Toff, ARS; Brad Michael, NRCS; Wes Gordon, NRCS; Larry Stokum, NRCS; Hunter McClelland; Suzette Brought, southcentral Pennsylva-

nia grazing specialist; Kris Ribble, northeast Pennsylvania grazing specialist; Susy Fuka, NRCS; and Candace Burke, Project Grass Steering Committee chairperson.



Genny Christ, outstanding contest individual, studies a grass specimen for identification. Photos by Dave Lefever



Marvin Hall guides the plant ID section of the contest.