Hay Stack Cages

W.T. Welchert
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Hay stack cages which speed up stacking operations, save labor and insure uniform stack size are coming into use in range areas. These cages are especially useful with a hay stack moving system.

Steel framing is preferred. Some cages have been made of wood frame construction but are not as satisfactory as steel since they cannot stand up long under the constant flexing from the wind, stacking operations and resistance in being pulled away from the hay stack.

Satisfactory hay stack cages have been made from scrap iron found on the farm.

The model shown here was made
from two inch angle iron with %-inch reinforcing rods between the main uprights.

Two large caster wheels are needed on the rear and two fixed wheels should be used on the front for moving the cage. The hitch is made of two inch angle iron and can be hooked up out of the way so the tractor buck sweep can approach from all sides.

The cage is 13-sided to approximate a round stack of 16 feet in diameter. Round stacks of approximately five tons have been found best for hay stack movers.

The sides are hinged, the back split and fastened by two latches. The cage itself is 10 feet high; or 11 feet in height including the wheels. A cage higher than this would be difficult to fill with a tractor buck and the additional height would increase the danger of tipping the tractor.
The operation of this unit is simple. The tractor buck can approach from all sides. A ladder is provided on the back so the stackman can pack the hay down and top out the stack.

On this 13-sided cage consideration must be given to outside teeth contact when dumping sweep loads. Little difficulty has been experienced in breaking teeth when dumping sweep loads into the cage, however the operator must use some caution.

When the stack is completed, the operator hitches his tractor to the cage, opens the rear latches and drives forward. The caster wheels allow the hinged sides to swing out and clear the stack. Then the sides will return to a partially closed position. After unhitching and fastening the rear latches, the cage is ready for a new stack.

Some operators prefer to move the sides out by hand before pulling away from a completed stack.

Cage From Farm Scrap Iron

This serviceable hay stack cage was made from scrap iron found on a farm. The front is mounted on an old sweep axle. The buck is fastened with a truck chain. Caster wheels may be reclaimed from such items as listers, horse drawn cultivators and plows.