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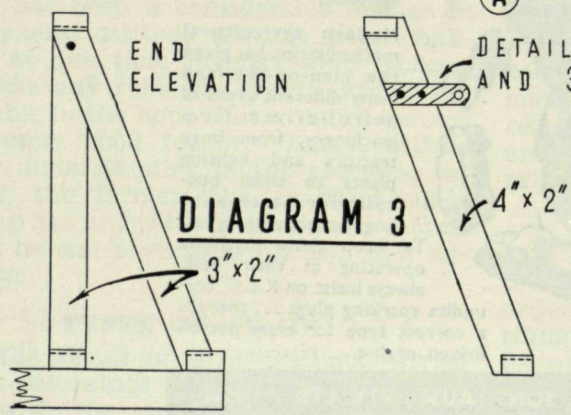
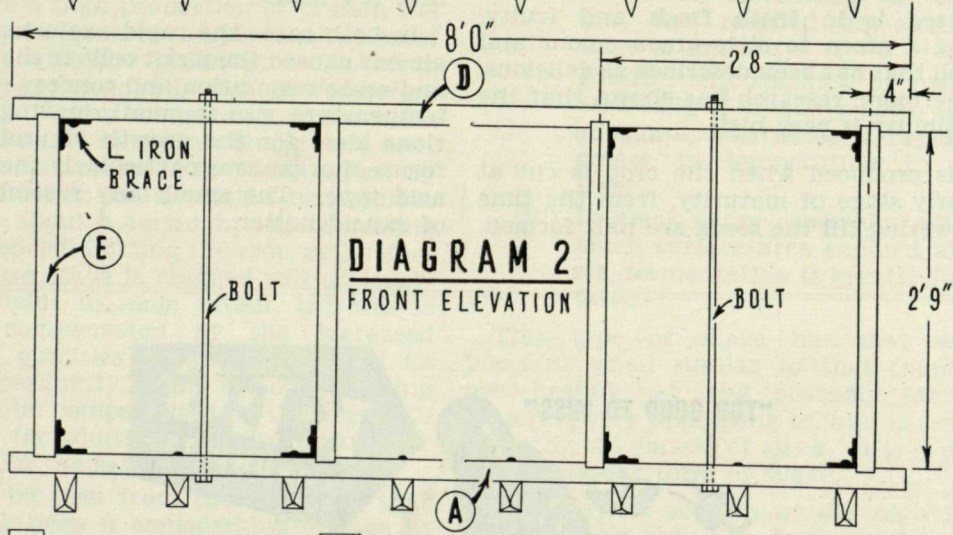
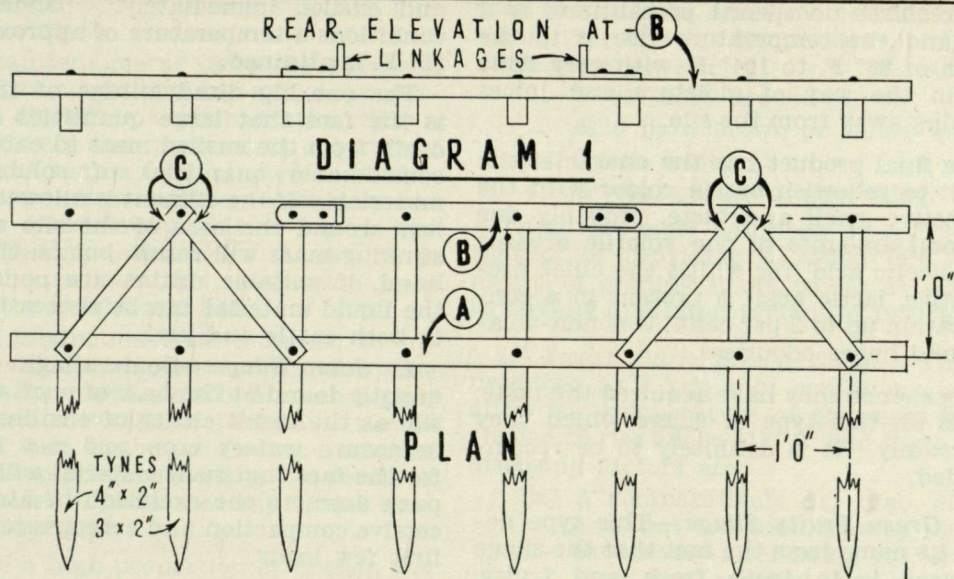
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**A FARM-MADE
BUCK-RAKE**
AN INEXPENSIVE
AND EFFECTIVE
FARM-CONSTRUCTED
— SWEEP —

A FARM-MADE BUCKRAKE OR HAY-SWEEP

By V. B. MONTI, M.D.A. (Hons.), Dairy Instructor.

A TRACTOR-MOUNTED sweep that can be operated by the hydraulic lift gear saves a tremendous amount of time and labour when making hay or silage. Farmers who find the cost of the factory-made sweep rather more than they care to expend on an implement that is only in use for a brief period in each year, may be interested in this inexpensive farm-made model.

It was made by a Margaret River farmer, Mr. P. Zani, and has given good service which has already led to the design being copied by other farmers.

The original model was used for haymaking only and had tynes which were 7ft. 6in. in length. Shorter tynes would be advisable if the implement was to be used for handling heavy material such as greenstuff cut for silage-making.

The measurements given in this article are those used with a Ferguson tractor, but the principles could be adapted for use with other models.

The tynes are eight in number and are made from 3in. x 2in. timber, on edge. The outside tynes could well be 4in. x 2in. as these are more likely to encounter extra stresses through

hooking under dense Kikuyu grass or other obstacles. The tynes should be planed smooth and slightly tapered with the corners rounded off. The tips are pointed as shown in the photographs.

The tynes are laid on edge, 12in. centres apart and bolted under the two 8ft. lengths of 3in. x 2in. timber (on the flat) which are marked A and B in the diagram. Suitable strap iron stays (C) are bolted in position to ensure rigidity.

The 8ft. timber (A) forms the bottom portion of a vertical frame, the elevation of which is shown in Diagram 2. A similar length of 8ft. x 3in. x 2in. timber forms the top of the frame and the two horizontal members are held 2ft. 9in. apart by four vertical lengths of 3in. x 2in. timber (E) spaced at 4in. and 32in. centres from each end.

These uprights should be checked into the horizontal members and reinforced by stout angle-iron corner braces as shown. Two long bolts with washers are added to make this frame perfectly rigid.

Three diagonal struts, one at each end and one in the centre, hold the vertical frame at right angles to the tynes. These are shown in Diagram 3. The two outer struts are of 3in. x 2in. and the centre of 4in. x 2in.

The centre strut carries an iron attachment to connect the three-point linkage of the lifting and lowering gear. Similar metal pieces are bolted on to (B) to take the other attachments.

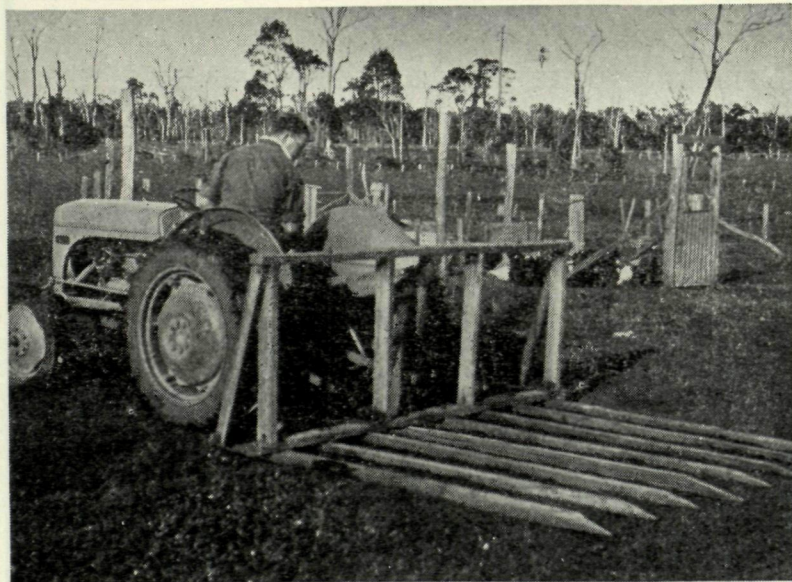


Fig. 1—Buckrake in position ready to pick up a load

The sweep was used successfully by its originator. The hay was raked into windrows and the sweep used to push it together into heaps. In building the stack, the heaps were lifted by the sweep and carried to the stack site where they were dumped and pushed together. A height of 5ft. could be obtained without any hay having to be thrown up.

To this stage only one man was required to trim the stack to shape. From then on, it was possible to keep three men fully occupied in building the stack provided the round trip was not over half a mile.

In working a paddock it was found most economical in labour to alternate far and near trips. Where the lead was over half a mile, hand-loading the sweep and stacking heavily near the vertical frame of the sweep was the most economical method of handling, as bigger loads could be carried.

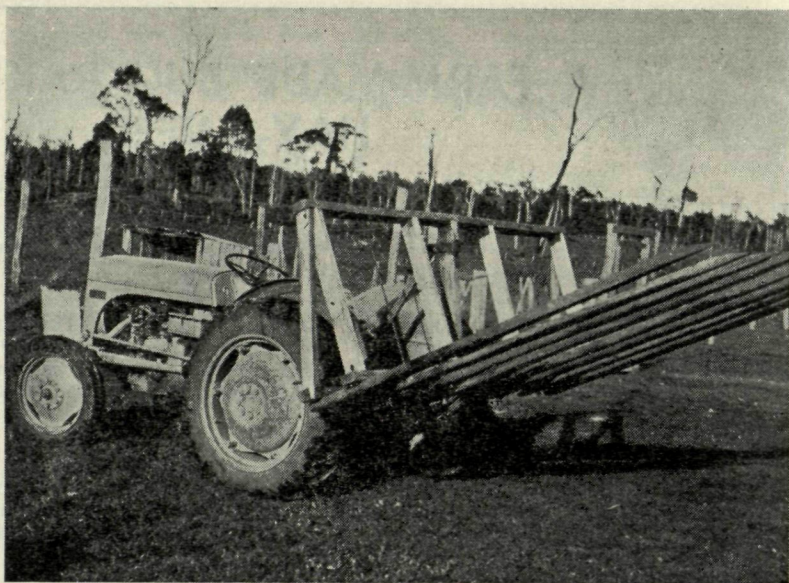


Fig. 2—Buckrake raised in the carrying position

Heavy front loading was necessary to keep the front end of the tractor from rising during the initial lift, before the weight was thrown towards the machine.

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