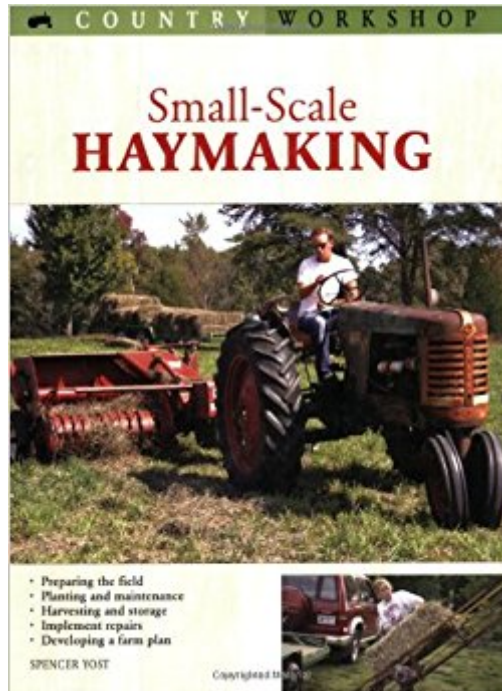




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# Small-Scale Haymaking (Country Workshop)



## Synopsis

For those who are undertaking haymaking for the first time, this book offers wise counsel and practical advice, providing step-by-step instructions that will see the new or casual farmer through the entire process. From plowing and planting the field to cutting, baling, and storing, author Spencer Yost clearly and concisely explains what to do, citing examples and describing instructive situations from his own experience as a hay farmer. He also includes ample information of the different types of haying equipment and basic machinery maintenance. Also includes informative sidebars on seed types and sowing information; using GPS surveying to estimate planting yields; how to test hay dryness with a microwave oven, and other helpful hints.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The art of making hay is as old as farming itself, and even today, no matter how sophisticated the machinery, it evokes the connection of a person to the land. For anyone undertaking the task of making hay for the first time or if you have a few haying seasons under your belt, Small-Scale Haymaking takes you through every step of the process. From plowing and planting the field to cutting, baling, and storing the hay, author Spencer Yost explains what to do, citing examples and describing situations from his own experience as a hay farmer. Information about buying and maintaining all types of haying equipment is covered in this book, as well as developing a farm plan for the future. Practical advice and step-by-step instructions will help first-time and veteran hay

farmers through the entire haying process to where they can sit back and admire, with pride, a bare hay field and a full hay mow. ã ã

Spencer Yost has written several tractor-related books, including *How to Rebuild and Restore Farm Tractor Engines*

The author did a good job of describing a small haying operation done on a shoestring budget. He mentions early on that it is not economical to hay on a small scale with brand new, off the showroom, big iron. So he focuses on used equipment. Talks alot about each piece of equipment and how and when they are used in the areas of field preparation, planting and harvesting. As it should be, the harvesting section was the most detailed stressing the quality (nutrient value) of the hay and the proper drying techniques. Proper maintenance and safety were also addressed. Lots of pictures. Were this book could have been better: It should have talked more about the relative strenghts and weaknesses of the various types of forage and their use in different parts of the country. I would pair this book with Gene Logsdon's "All Flesh is Grass" for more on this. I also wish Mr. Yost had done some research into the alternatives to square bales, such as round bales and haylage. All in all, a good book for anyone interesting in learning about haymaking. It filled in some gaps for me and leaves me more confident when I purchase that piece of land and a tractor.

Great book, if you are haying 300 acres and are owned by the bank - this book is not for you. If you have 5 to 100 acres, it is for you. With used equipment, a modicum of mechanical ability (you can't farm at any level without at least an honest try), and the time and interest to give it a go - you can supply yourself with all your hay needs, or actually turn a pretty fair profit. I highly recommend it...

I was very excited to see this book and purchased it in Kindle form. The author quickly got down to the point of saying small scale haymaking can only be possible with used equipment unless you have \$1,000,000 and want to do this as a tax write off or a hobby. The book is written for a person who has virtually no experience in agriculture and the associated equipment. The formatting of the book was very difficult to follow. Subjects jumped around with no transition or logic. Hopefully the printed version is better . An example is a discussion on rakes is interrupted by grass types. One piece of equipment is discussed then followed with a picture of another type. There are too many of these examples in the book to be just a one time problem. If the printed version is this way too, the editor didn't help the author much. |Several major improvements might be :1) A discussion of the real

cost of making hay in regards to equipment, fuel, repairs, fertilizer, lime and grass seed compared to the return at a specific hay price per ton. This might be real eye opener for someone who might be considering this in an economic perspective.2) While Mr. Yost suggests used equipment, he makes only one reference to the horse power required of a tractor, the most important piece of data needed. Ironically, the most readily available used tractor is the Ford 8 N. It has about 29 hp. According to Mr. Yost, that tractor is too small for any baler. But would someone explain how hay was made when the average tractor was 25 hp? I once had a John Deere 24T baler with a Wisconsin engine. It did not take the tractor PTO to run it. The previous owner of the baler used an 8N to cut, ted, rake and bale hay. An in depth comparison of tractor hp and balers would have been worth twice the price of the book. A discussion of auxiliary power would also be helpful. I still wonder if there really are vintage balers that can reasonably bale hay with less than 30 hp.3) New compact tractors are one of the biggest selling tractor lines today with people purchasing small acreage to "farm" or whatever, You can buy a 25 hp John Deere, New Holland, Kubota, or whatever for \$300 per month. Are there vintage balers that will fit these compact tractors? I know you can buy brand new square or round baler for compact tractors but they are over \$15 K.4) The discussion of balers was too generic and to those of us who aren't familiar with the mechanism could have used a generic diagram or exploded parts diagram to locate items and understand the spacial relationship of the equipment.5) A discussion of timing a baler would have been very helpful. A baler out of time, will break the unit with its first bale. Not understanding how to check timing is a sure way to ruin a baler. Knowing this process especially for an old baler seems to me to be critical. Perhaps the author might consider adding and expanding his book in the second addition if the demand is high enough. Unfortunately after reading the book, it leaves me with more questions than answers and just a little bit frustrated. I was hoping for real experience and insight into how small scale haymaking might be feasible. I'll keep searching the internet for info.

This book is a good introduction to classic small-scale haymaking, at least from the used equipment side of things. The many pictures complemented the text very well. That said, there was essentially zero information on the various types of haymaking plants which you might want to consider for your operation, which would probably require an entirely separate book. The best source of information on that topic will be your local agricultural extension service(s) anyway. Not much mention of modern machinery and techniques, but you probably cannot afford to invest in all new equipment and make any money with a small operation anyway, so the author delivers as promised.

The book was very informative and perfect for a person who wants to farm 5-10 acres of hay. I gave it 5 stars for the book content. If I could rate the Kindle adaptation I would give it 1 star. Everything seemed to be out of order - especially the pictures. They seemed to be randomly dispersed throughout the book. The index at the end was useless, too. If I could do it over again I would buy the printed version.

I knew absolutely nothing about hay farming and needed a quick run down to help with a project. Generally speaking everything was pretty much covered. Irrigation ideas and tactics might have been the only thing missing. But over all i learned enough to tackle the project. Thanks!

I got this book because we're new to farming and haymaking. The book was informative, but I wished there was a bit more on the actual mowing, tedding, raking, and bailing process and your actual time tables. The info on repairs is great.

good

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