## Large round bale safety

# CATTLEMAN

#### **Baler machinery**

- Never leave the tractor seat until the PTO has been disengaged.
- Match tractor size to the size of the baler to avoid having a loaded baler pushing the tractor down a hill.
- Protect bystanders; gathering tines and bale chamber belts cannot be shielded, and baler gates can close on bystanders.
   Block baler gates before working under them.
- Worn or faulty bearings and baler belt friction can cause heat and ignite. Carry an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher.
- Baling on hillsides can create bale-rolling problems when bales are ejected. Always orient the bale correctly before ejecting the bale from the bale chamber.



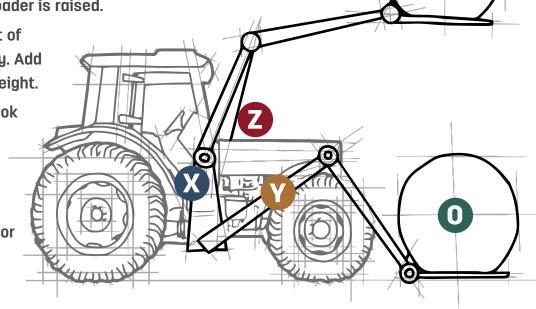
#### **Bale handling**

• Changes in the center of gravity occur when a bale is loaded on a front-end loader and when the bale is raised. Move the wheels to the widest recommended settings to increase stability.



 Always use the recommended amount of counterweight to ensure good stability. Add recommended wheel ballast or rear weight.

• Extending the tines of a loader may look like a good way to solve the loading problem, but when this is done the tractor's center of gravity is moved forward. Extra stress is placed on the loader, the hydraulic system and tractor front end.





### **Bale transport**

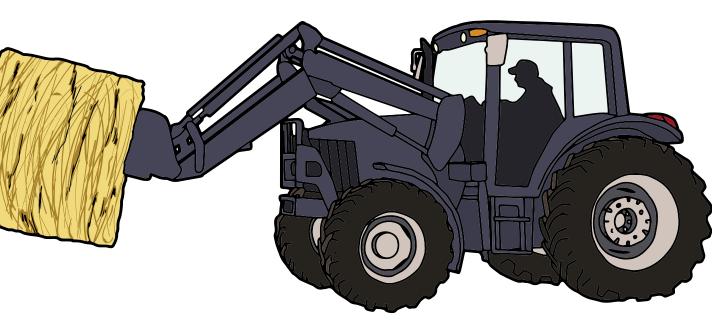
- Visibility decreases when a bale is picked up with a front-end loader. Keep bystanders away and carry the load low to the ground.
- During operation, remain seated on the tractor seat to reduce the chance of falling into the path of the baler. Never allow passengers to ride on the baler during operation or transport.
- Round balers are top heavy (high center of gravity) and could tip sideways if one wheel drops in a hole, ditch or other irregularity, especially if carrying a near-completed bale.
- Avoid sharp turns; with the tractor wheels set wide to straddle windrows, rear tires could strike the baler tongue on sharp turns.

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#### Excerpts from: Large Round Bale Safety

www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\_ext\_vt\_edu/442/442-455/442-455\_pdf.pdf

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