

BIG TOBACCO BALERS: SOURCES AND OPTIONS

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November, 2011

Tobacco companies are increasingly requiring growers to sell their tobacco in big bales or are accessing a penalty for taking small bales. This situation has many tobacco growers who had continued using the small bales scrambling to find big tobacco balers. At the same time, because of the current uncertainty regarding tobacco contracts, growers are hesitant to invest the large amount of capital required for purchasing new balers. They are interested in lower cost options to the standard hydraulic-powered balers. The purchase of used balers, possibly coming out of flue-cured tobacco areas such as North Carolina and parts of Georgia, is one possible option for reducing the cost of big tobacco balers. There are other lower-cost options that have been developed over the years by innovative farmers, especially some of the Amish and Mennonite farmers. Sources of traditional hydraulic –powered tobacco balers, including new and used balers as well as sources of scales for adding to balers, are listed below. The information compiled is intended to help growers make the transition to big tobacco balers.

SOURCES OF BIG TOBACCO BALERS

(No endorsement of performance or safety implied)

NEW BALERS

Bubba's Baler ¹
 c/o Edwin 'Bubba' Sparks
 Bubba's Place
 102 Sunset Blvd
 Somerset, KY 42501
 606-271-2774
 606-526-2774

The Grand Tobacco Baler
 c/o Brian Froedge
 Grandview Welding & Equipment Sales
 198 Radio Station Road
 Thompkinsville KY 42167
 270-487-8813

¹ Mention or display of a trademark, proprietary product, or firm in text or figures does not constitute an endorsement and does not imply approval to the exclusion of other suitable products or firms.

Bigfoot Baler
c/o Ron Taylor
Taylor Mfg. Inc
Elizabethtown NC
886-545-2293

Beilers Welding & Mfg
c/o Elam Beiler
4918 West County Rd, 550 South
Holton, IN 47023
812-689-6072

Granville Equipment ("Bacca" Baler)
4602 A Watkins Rd
Oxford, NC 27565
919-693-7268
<http://www.granvilleequipment.com/>

MULTI-CHAMBERED BALERS

Cornett's Burley Baler
c/o Brent Cornett
606-843-0905
<http://burleybaler.webs.com>

USED BALERS

Barnes Equipment (dealer for Granville Equipment)
252-237-1066

Clark Rast (Granville Equipment Sales Rep)
803-238-1078

SOURCES OF SCALES FOR BALERS

Bubba's Balers (see above)

Granville Equipment (see above)

Barnes Equipment (see above)

Beilers Welding (see above)

Grandview Welding & Equipment Sales (see above)

<http://loadcells.centralcarolinascale.com/>