

Portable Calf Shelter Built From Oilfield Pipe

"I built it strong so it can be moved around a feedlot without falling apart," says Mark Hay, Oakville, Manitoba, who used oilfield pipe to make a skid-mounted, heavy duty calf shelter.

The shelter measures 24 ft. long and 11 ft. wide and is 7 ft. high at the front and 5 ft. high at the back. The frame consists of 2 7/8-in. dia. oilfield pipe covered with plywood. The roof is galvanized tin. There's a 20-in. high flap at each end. To move the shelter, you hook a chain onto one end and flip up the flap on the other end and tow it away. No need to fork out the manure build-up inside.

"It works better than any other calf shelter I've ever seen because it's built so strong," says Hay. "Many commercial models are made out of wood, and if they're moved too much they fall apart. Steel models have end walls that go all the way down to the ground, so if manure builds up too high it's difficult to tow them away. This shelter has room for about 45 calves. It's 7 ft. high at the front so you don't have to bend over. Many commercial models are only 4 ft. high so you have to hunch over when putting in bedding.

"The front part of the shed is equipped with removable horizontal steel bars that can be removed from the bottom up as the calves grow. The bars fit into brackets that are welded onto vertical lengths of oilfield pipe spaced 8 ft. apart. The shed could be built to leave just one 8-ft. wide bay with an open front with removable bars. The other two bays could be closed to keep the shed warmer."

Hays says he's willing to build the basic shed for \$2,275 (Canadian).

He also builds a skid-mounted, "no waste" silage or hay feeder made out of the same thick-walled oilfield pipe with a 14 ga., 21-in. high steel skirt around the bottom. The feeder measures 6 ft. 8 1/2 in. wide at the top



Shelter measures 7 ft. high in front and 5 ft. high in back, with a frame built of 2 7/8-in. dia. oilfield pipe covered with plywood. The front part is equipped with removable horizontal bars that can be removed, bottom to top, as calves grow.



To move the shelter, you flip up the 20-in. flap on the end and simply tow it away.

and tapers out to an 8 ft. 11 1/2 in. width at the bottom. It's 13 ft. long at the top and 15 ft. long at the bottom. An optional clean-out gate at one end swings up.

"The combination of the tapered sides and bottom skirt results in less waste, and the cleanout gate allows you to hook a chain to the opposite end and pull it to a new spot any time you want," says Hay. "It's big enough to dump silage into it with a front-end loader. It's also ideal for feeding medium or large



Skid-mounted silage or hay feeder made out of same thick-walled oilfield pipe.

square bales. It can handle two round bales at a time."

Sells for \$850 with the 14 ga. steel skirt; \$800 with a rough lumber skirt. The clean-out gate sells for \$45.

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"Super Scraper" consists of a freely-rotating 18-in. dia. steel disc mounted on a triangular frame that quick-tatches to a loader.

New "Disc Scraper" Chips Off Ice, Compacted Manure

"Nothing works better to peel off compacted snow or ice and manure or dirt on concrete or paved driveways," says Mike Gustafson, Erskine Mfg. Co., Erskine, Minn.

The "Super Scraper" consists of an 18-in. dia. steel disc mounted on a triangular frame that quick-tatches to the loader arms. The blade rotates freely on a shaft. To use it you lower the blade to the surface and apply downpressure while moving the skid steer back and forth. As the blade moves across the surface it rotates under the material to break it up.

"It covers less surface area than the long flat surface of a loader bucket, which gives it a better chance to dig down and break up the material," says Gustafson. "The freely rotating blade is able to rotate past any bumps or breaks on the surface without damaging the blade or loader and causes little or no damage to the surface."

Sells for \$800 plus S&H.

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Mover consists of an 8-in. dia. pneumatic wheelbarrow wheel that castors on a triangular frame attached to the auger axle.

Add-On Wheel Makes Any Auger Easy To Move

"It's a simple concept that makes it easy to move even the biggest augers," says Fred Sykes, inventor of the "Raise & Roll" system for moving augers.

It consists of an 8-in. dia. pneumatic wheelbarrow wheel that castors on the end of a telescoping A-frame attached to the auger axle. A 3-ft. telescoping shaft extends down from the auger tube to the castor wheel. The shaft telescopes out to 5 1/2 ft. and it has holes drilled every 1/2 in. so it's easy to get it set so the weight of the lower end of the auger

rests on the wheel.

"You can move augers without working up a sweat," says Sykes, who's in the process of patenting the device and is looking for a manufacturer.

Two models are available. One fits 36 to 42-ft., 6 and 8-in. dia. augers (\$475 Canadian). The other fits 42 to 52-ft., 6 and 8-in. dia. augers (\$525).

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Photo courtesy Capital Press

Plastic Chute Clears Logs Fast

Low-impact logging is getting a lot of attention across North America and around the world. This plastic log chute, developed in Austria, works on 25 percent or steeper slopes. It's made out of "slippery plastic" so no water or other lubricant is required. It was recently used as part of a demonstration of small-diameter timber handling systems in

Southern Oregon's Applegate Valley. A crew under training by the Rogue Institute for Ecology and Economy dropped trees in a patch about 400 ft. above a spur road, then lugged them to the head of the chute. At the bottom the poles were then tossed into a truck and hauled to a portable sawmill.