



The Windholtz brothers figure their self-feeder cuts wasted feed to no more than 5 percent because there's less trampling of feed.

Feeder Holds Enough Hay To Feed 65 Cattle For Two Weeks

Cattlemen Art and Lester Windholtz, Wakeeney, Kansas, were tired of spending most of every winter day feeding cattle.

After giving the matter a little thought, they came up with a self-feeder for cattle that will hold enough ground hay to feed 65 head for about two weeks. Now they spend only about 30 minutes a day managing half a dozen feeders.

Called the Profit Plus Feeder, the Windholtz feeder is being manufactured and marketed by BG Industries, Wakeeney, Kan., owned by Bob Weigel and Gale Scanlon.

The 24-ft. sq. feeder has two sliding panels at either end. The Windholtzes set it up on pasture in a well-drained area. With the sliding panels extended to the edges, they fill the feeder with ground hay blown in from a tub grinder.

Scanlon says sliding panels weigh about 600 lbs. each so they're built strong enough to stand up to a lot of abuse. "The panels can be taken apart easily and are sturdy enough to move with a loader tractor," he says. "Setting up takes less than half an hour, so moving the feeder from one pasture to another is simple."

Stops on the sliding panels allow the cattle to push them in toward the ground hay up to a foot at a time, so they can't pull hay down and push the panel over it. Since both end panels move, cattle have access to up to 2 ft. of feed each time the stops are reset. Resetting the stops takes less than 5 min. per day.

The Windholtz brothers figure the feeder cut their wasted feed to no more than 5



Feeder has a sliding panel on each side. Panels can move up to 2 ft. at a time.

percent because there's less trampling of feed. Another advantage is that the self-feeder can be refilled at any time. If there's a storm in the forecast, you can go out a few days before the feeder is empty and refill it so that you don't have to be out feeding hay in bad weather.

The feeder can also be loaded with any size of round or square bales. The basic 24 by 24-ft. unit sells for just under \$3,000. If interested, write or call for a video.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gale Scanlon or Bob Weigel, BG Industries, P.O. Box 85, Wakeeney, Kan. 67672 (ph 800 446-9271 or 785 743-6431).



Thanks to the innovative design, cattle clean up every bit of hay in the big feeder.

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Nieslony keeps the home-built, 30-ft. sq. self-feeder on pasture. It holds up to fifty 1,500-lb. bales stacked two high.

Hay Storage Unit Doubles As A Self-Feeder

Alberta cattleman Olaf Nieslony felt he was putting a lot of unnecessary effort into hauling big round bales to storage and then hauling them out again to feed his cow herd in winter.

"I looked at a lot of systems, but couldn't find anything that I could make work. I tried bale feeders and also put wood posts with electric fence wires around stacks. Nothing I could find worked to my satisfaction," he says.

"I chewed on the problem for four years," he says. "I wanted a self-feeder that was portable, that didn't require any power, that would last a long time, and that would hold enough feed that I wouldn't have to refill it every day."

Nieslony came up with what he calls the "Sweet Oly Feeder," a large self-feeder that he puts right on pasture.

Using salvaged 2-7/8 in. drill stem pipe and sucker rod, Nieslony built three panels 30 ft. long and 6 ft. high. He used the pipe for the frame and uprights in the panels and then welded sucker rod horizontally 8 in. apart from top to bottom.

The panels make up three sides of a square. For the fourth side, he built a panel that measures one foot shorter (29 ft.) in length and about a foot shorter in height. The top bar of this panel, however, is 31 ft. long and rests on top of the sides of the feeder.

Rather than horizontal bars like the sides and back, the front panel has slanted slots made by welding 3/4-in. sucker rods 14 in. apart, all the way across it at a 60-degree angle. Depending on the size of the cow, 10 to 12 can eat at a time. The cattle push into the sliding front panel back toward the hay as they feed.

Nieslony attaches two chains to each side of the front panel. They fasten to the front posts of the side panels and let him control how far the cattle can push the feed gate. "I make sure they clean up any hay on the ground before I loosen up the chains," he says.

To keep cattle from reaching in from the sides and backs of the racks, he cut old tarps in 6 ft. lengths and hangs these over the rails before filling them with hay.

Nieslony's storage rack/feeders will hold up to fifty 1,500-lb. bales inside the 30-ft. square, when stacked two high.

"You can store hay anywhere and the cows can't get at it," he says. "If I have a weedy field and don't want to spread my weed seed, I can store the hay in that field and confine the cows there until the hay is eaten."

"If I want to put more than 50 bales in the stack, I can put two sidewalls together on each side and make it 60 by 30 ft.," he points out.

Besides working with big round bales, Nieslony says his feeder is also ideal for feeding from those big Hesston hay stacks. "I have an old 8 by 14 Hesston stacker and can put nine loaves together inside one feeder," he says.

Nieslony liked the way his big self-feeder worked so well that he's built four more of them. "The pipe and sucker rod for each panel costs me about \$150. It takes about a day of welding to make one side panel."

He can make plans available for a fee if there's interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Olaf Nieslony, Box 4633, Barrhead, Alberta, Canada T7N 1A5 (ph 780 584-2154).

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