

Solar-powered feeder dispenses a pre-set amount of feed at pre-set times, onto a metal platform that serves as a trough. Bin holds enough feed for a month or more.



Solar-Powered Livestock Feeder

Hugh Wayman, Oklahoma City, Okla., managed cattle 100 miles from his home and needed a way to feed them without having to drive back and forth all the time. He solved the problem by building a solar-powered, timer-controlled automatic livestock feeder that mounts on a 2-wheeled trailer.

"It dispenses a pre-set amount of feed at a pre-set time, day in and day out, onto a metal platform that serves as a trough. The bin holds enough feed for a month or more. It has an opening on top so I can pull it to a feed store for filling, then park it in my pasture and go back home," says Wayman.

The feeder is made from 12-ga. sheet metal and angle iron and measures 5 ft. sq. and 32 in. high. A funnel at the bottom delivers feed onto an 18-in. dia. spinner. A metal plate at the bottom of the funnel attaches to a rod that's used to close the funnel and keep it from dropping feed when traveling.

A solar panel mounts on top of the feeder, and a battery and timer mount in a metal box on front of the feeder. The battery operates a motor that operates the spinner. When the timer turns the motor on, it scatters feed onto

the platform that encircles the feeder.

"It holds more than 2,100 lbs. and feeds up to 20 grown animals at a time," says Wayman. "It has saved me enough time to pay for itself in less than 12 months of use. And because it's solar-powered and battery-operated I can use it anywhere. The timer has eight different time settings. I just turn a knob to the time or times I want to feed each day. The amount of feed is determined by the length of time the switch is on when the knob is set on 'spin.'"

Wayman says his automatic livestock feeder can also be used for any kind of livestock feed including dry grain, cubes, or pellets. And since the unit is solar-powered, it could be used in locations with no other source of power.

Wayman got design help from engineer Otis Clark. Oklahoma Machine & Tool of ElReno, Okla., is now manufacturing units for sale for \$3,295.

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Harry Engeland built this handy chore machine out of an old Roper garden tractor.

He Built His Own "Gator"

A "home-built Gator" is what Harry Engeland of Stratford, Ontario calls his handy chore machine, built from an old Roper garden tractor.

The tractor's motor was no good, so Engeland decided to rebuild the machine. First, he extended the front axle about 4 in. The new 5 hp motor was in the way to change gears, so he put in an electric-over-air shift.

A bus seat and a 3 by 3 1/2-ft. dump box at the back completed the unit. The motor is located underneath the dump box.

"Initially, I had tried making it a 12-volt, but it didn't work out because the 12-volt motor I had was insufficient," Engeland says. "With the 5 hp, it works really well. I use it for yard work and giving the grandchildren rides."

The unit cost him just under \$1,000 for materials and took one winter to do.

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Keith Schole bolted a rigid 5-ft. handle to a plastic calf sled. It can carry 5-gal. pails of grain, silage or water, as well as hay bales, or be used to transport newborn calves.

"Lunch Buggy" Sled Hauls Food, Newborns

Keith Schole has always used a plastic calf sled for moving around newborns during calving season, but this year he made a number of changes that make it handier than ever.

Using a commercially available sled, he switched from a rope for pulling it, to a rigid 5-ft. hitch made from 1/2-in. rod. It bolts to the sides of the sled.

"A rigid hitch is far better than a rope because you can't steer a rope, and when I sometimes hook the sled behind the truck to bring a calf in, I don't have to worry about it sliding under the vehicle when going downhill," he says. "I just throw the handle over the pickup's ball hitch."

He raised the sides of the sled 2 in. with pieces of wood and attached three tarp straps to either restrain a newborn calf or secure feed and water that he sometimes transports across the yard to a penned up animal.

The S-hook at one end of each tarp strap is pinched closed and held in place with a fencing staple. The other end of each strap can be hooked to a fencing staple on the opposite side of the sled.

He can carry three 5-gal. pails of either grain, silage or water, one whole bale of hay,



He raised sides of sled 2 in. with pieces of wood. He uses tarp straps to secure feed and water that he transports to penned-up animals.

or half a bale of hay and one 5-gal. pail of water.

Keith uses pails with lids so no water gets spilled on the way.

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Trailer-mounted wire unroller lets Denis Hanley roll and unroll up to six strands of barbed wire at a time.

Six-Reel Barbed Wire Roller

"It lets me roll and unroll up to six strands of barbed wire at a time," says Denis Hanley, Whitney, Texas, about his home-built wire unroller.

The "Spool King", as he calls it, lets him string barbed wire for an entire fence in a single pass. He mounted the unit on a small 2-wheel trailer with leaf springs, but by pulling three pins he can move it to his tractor's 3-pt. hitch. The upper four reels all feed wire

from the top of the reel, while the lower two reels feed wire from the bottom, which helps keep wires from getting crossed. As the wire is released from the reel, the amount of tension on it can be adjusted by sliding the side plate on the end of each reel in or out and then tightening a "T" bolt.

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