

A set of 8-in. long retractable steel teeth mount inside bucket to tear silage loose. A single hydraulic cylinder extends or retracts the teeth.

## **Retractable "Feeder Teeth" For Loader Buckets**

Using a skid steer or front-end loader to pull feed out of bags or bunker silos can be a frustrating job. The material is packed so tight that a conventional bucket has trouble tearing the silage loose.

Jason Ihm, Mt. Horeb, Wis., says his new "Bag and Bunker Buster" solves the problem by using 8-in. long retractable steel teeth mounted inside the bucket to tear silage loose. When they're not needed the teeth can be retracted inside to allow you to use the bucket to scrape and scoop up material.

The teeth are welded to a heavy duty steel bar that extends the width of the bucket. A single hydraulic cylinder extends or retracts the teeth.

"The cylinder moves the teeth out 8 in. beyond the edge of the bucket, which is enough to grab the silage and tear it loose," says Ihm. "It saves time as well as wear and tear on the loader and works good on any packed feed including haylage and corn silage. It works much better than welding teeth permanently to the bucket because you can retract them whenever you need to."

"I build the bucket with retractable teeth as a unit. Most of the buckets I build are either 72 or 84 in. wide, but I can custom build them to any size. Just let me know what size bucket you're already using. I don't retrofit the teeth to existing buckets because the bucket's cutting edge is often worn, or the bucket is bowed or warped which makes it difficult to get the teeth to fit correctly."

A 72-in. wide bucket sells for \$1,750 plus S&H.

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## Heavy-Duty "Flashlight" Made With A Car Headlight

"We were tired of wimpy flashlights that would break, wear out and just didn't produce as much light as we needed," says Robert Dulin, Kingsbury, Texas, who decided to create his own heavy-duty "flashlight" that uses a car headlight as a bulb.

"They're selling like crazy to friends and neighbors in our local area. They like the wide panoramic beam which covers more area than any other flashlight on the market. It's really more like a portable spotlight," says Dulin.

"One local vet has done several surgeries out in the field with our light and our local volunteer fire department likes it because it gives them plenty of light when they show up for an emergency after dark at an unfamiliar location. It's a great way to check a herd of cattle on pasture, or to chase down varmints in the woods."

Dulin is a do-it-yourselfer so he decided to manufacture his new light himself. He designed a rubberized plastic case and made his own molds out of aluminum. He pours the plastic himself. The case contains a compact 12-volt battery wired to the headlight. He found an auto headlight fitted with a plastic lens rather than glass, so it's lighter and almost impossible to break. The sealed flashlight is water resistant.

When using the light, you can hit a switch to momentarily switch it onto the high beam, which more than doubles the amount of light. The sealed, rechargeable lead acid battery gives more than an hour and a half of continuous light on low beam.

"It's built heavy to last for years, far surpassing the cheap handheld lights available at discount stores. They only give out 14 to 20 minutes of light and illuminate a much smaller area," notes Dulin.



Car headlight inside this flashlight creates a wide panoramic beam which covers more area than any other flashlight on the market, says inventor Robert Dulin.

Sells for \$135 plus S&H with a 45-watt low beam and 65-watt high beam. Comes with a wall charger, a car cigarette lighter charger, a shoulder strap, and a wall-mounting bracket. It has a 30-day money-back guarantee.

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"It's really handy to use and lets me go down the road at highway speeds," says Mike Blake, who mounted a 250-bu. gravity box at the center of an old school bus.

## School Bus Makes Low-Cost Seed Bean Hauler

Iowa farmer Mike Blake mounted a 250-bu. gravity box at the center of an old 54-passenger school bus to haul beans for his planter.

He simply cut away a 20-ft. section at the center of the Ford bus. An electric motor powered by a portable generator operates a 15-ft. long, 6-in. dia. brush auger to fill the planter.

"It's really handy to use and lets me go down the road at highway speeds. Best of all, it cost much less than a trailer and wagon setup," says Blake. "The auger pivots and has a long drop spout which makes it easy to fill the planter. I can fill it in one sitting without having to move the bus. I use the closed compartment at the rear of the bus to store sacks of seed which I use for finishing up fields. I carry tools in another compartment at the front of the bus.

"I paid \$1,000 for the bus, which was in very good condition. The Lundell gravity cart had been in a wreck so I got it free and straightened it out."

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Fence consists of 2 1/2-gal. plastic herbicide jugs with the bottom one third of each jug cut off. A stake holds each jug in place. The jugs act as insulators for high-tensile electric wire which is threaded through the handles.

## Easy-To-Set-Up Raccoon Fence

After seeing a raccoon fence in the last issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 23, No.4), Edward Jarrard, Washington, Iowa, sent us a photo of his easy-to-set-up electric fence.

"It keeps raccoons, rabbits, skunks, and other small pest animals our of the garden. Sets up quick and easy and you can take it down fast," he notes.

It consists of 2 1/2-gal. plastic herbicide jugs with the bottom one third of each jug cut off. He spaces the jugs evenly around the garden and drives a stake through the top opening and down through the bottom of each jug to hold them in place.

Then he threads high-tensile electric wire through the handles on the jugs so they act

as insulators.

He uses a metal T-post to anchor each corner and a regular fence charger to power the fence.

Jarrard says the fence has solved his problems with small pest animals. He's never had much of a problem with deer but notes that some people think a low-to-the-ground, nearly invisible fence can be effective against deer also. If they get shocked by the lowlying fence, they'll take off and not come back.

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