



Ron McNear lined his alleyways, squeeze tub, and squeeze chute with flexible, UV stabilized white plastic that he purchased in 5-ft. wide rolls.

Cheap Way To Make Solid Sided Alleyways, Chutes For Livestock

Livestock producer Ron McNear of Koshkonong, Mo., wanted to line his alleyways, squeeze tub, and squeeze chute with solid plastic in order to keep his cows moving along. The problem was that conventional 4 by 8-ft. recycled plastic panels were too rigid and also too expensive.

He solved the problem by buying flexible, UV stabilized white plastic in a roll 5 ft. wide and 100 ft. long. The plastic is only 1/16-in. thick, making it easy to cut and bend. McNear used a sheet metal tin snips to cut the plastic into the desired length. Then he drilled pairs of holes in the plastic at various places and used white, 8-in. long plastic wire ties to attach the plastic to the alleyways and chute.

"Buying plastic in rolls is the way to go. The material is easy to cut and also bends easily so it'll work no matter what equipment or spacing needs I have. It's also lightweight which makes it easy to handle," says McNear. "Unlike sheet metal, it doesn't require a lot of hardware or engineering and it's easier to set up and to replace. Best of all, it's less expensive than using either sheet metal or plastic panels. Most 4 by 8-ft. plastic panels sell for about \$24 apiece, whereas I paid only about \$150 for an entire 100-ft. long roll. I've found only one economical

source that sells poly in rolls (FarmTek, Dyersville, Iowa 52040 ph 800 327-6835). The rolls are sold 4 or 5-ft. wide and 50, 200, or 400 ft. long. If you want, these companies will also cut pieces for you at a cost of \$1.50 to \$2 per foot. The plastic ties I used came from Harbor Freight, Camarillo, Calif. 93011 (ph 800 423-2567). They sell for less than a penny apiece and are available up to 11 in. long to fit special needs.

"I really like being able to bend the plastic. For example, on my squeeze chute, I bent a series of panels to fit the curvature of the sides. When installing the plastic I leave a 12-in. high opening at the bottom which allows the wind to blow through.

"I like the plastic wire ties because they're dirt cheap and they're flexible, which makes them much easier to use than bolts. I drill two holes in the plastic for each tie. Unlike sheet metal, there are no bolts to rust out and nothing for cattle to snag on. I use clear or white ties because they resist ultra violet rays better than colored ties and will therefore last longer."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron McNear, Rt. 1, Box 149, Koshkonong, Mo. 65692 (ph 417 867-3343; fax 417 867-3777; E-mail: mmcnear@otrackm.missouri.org; Website: www.ahbleza.8m.com).



"Hay Hawg" is fitted with its own power unit which provides hydraulics and electronic controls. Rig will pick up and transport 10 round bales behind a 3/4-ton pickup.

Remote Control Bale Trailer Designed For Use With Pickups

Retrieving big bales with a pickup is a great way to go because of the higher road speeds. But most big bale trailers require a lot of hydraulics to operate.

Not the new Hay Hawg. It's fitted with its own power unit which provides hydraulics and electronic controls. In fact, you don't even have to hook up electric controls because everything on the rig is controlled by a hand held remote control.

Developed by William Cheatham, the Hay Hawg will pick up and transport 10 big round bales behind a 3/4-ton pickup. Radio signals from the hand held remote, control every aspect of the machine.

Scott Manufacturing, Inc., Lubbock, Texas, has been issued an exclusive license to build and market the hay trailer which is covered by several new patents.

The trailer hauls bales on their flat ends, which means there's less chance of bales rolling off during transport.

It operates on a combination of electronics and hydraulics. A gas engine powers the hydraulic system, all components of which mount on the gooseneck.

"It doesn't take much time to get used to operating it," Cheatham says, noting that push buttons on the remote control raise and lower the lift arms and move the bales back on the deck of the trailer. To unload, drop the bales two at a time off the back of the trailer.

"With a little practice, you can actually drop the bales into two tight rows, so you don't need a tractor and bale fork to restack them," he says.

Cheatham decided to use a remote control because he didn't like the thought of running



This hand-held remote control is all that's needed to run the Hay Hawg.

wires and hydraulic controls to the pickup. "It's efficient and convenient. You don't need to disconnect wiring or hydraulics to change from truck to tractor or one truck to another," he says.

Use of the trailer with a tractor requires a 3 pt. hitch gooseneck adapter. A 5-bale trailer that's one bale wide is also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Scott Manufacturing, Inc., P.O. Box 10232, Lubbock, Texas 79408 (ph 806 747-3395).



Lift arms on either side of trailer load bales onto deck where chains move them backward.

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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