



Feeder forms adjustable "feed trough" around tubes of bagged silage, bales, or stacks.

## SIDES "TELESCOPE" TOWARD SILAGE

# New "Cattle Buffet" Forage Feeding System

"It saves a tremendous amount of time and labor compared to conventional feeding methods," says Harold Schilling, Colesburg, Iowa, about his new "Cattle Buffet" feeder that forms an adjustable "feed trough" around tubes of bagged silage, big round bales, square bales, or stacks.

The 4-wheeled rectangular feeder, built from 2 by 4-in. steel tubing, is 18 ft. long and 14 ft. wide fully extended. Its sides can be "telescoped" inward as cattle feed until the feeder is only 6 ft. wide, small enough so cattle can reach all the feed. Once the feed is gone you simply move the feeder to the next section of forage.

"In addition to time and labor, it has saved us a lot of wear and tear on machinery," says Schilling, who came up with the new cattle feeding idea last winter for his 70-cow beef herd and is now manufacturing it. "In the past we loaded silage into wagons every day with a skid steer loader, and then hauled the load out to pasture. It meant countless hours of labor and a lot of wasted feed."

The feeder accommodates 36 head of cattle at one time. Tubes of bagged silage, or stacks of bales, should be spaced about 34 to 36 ft. apart. This lets you string an electric fence around each bag and gives cows enough room to move around the feeder.

To set it up, you back the feeder as far as possible around a section of forage, swing out the two rear end gates and connect them to the hot wire running around the rest of the bag. A front-end jack equipped with 6-in. prongs is lowered to stabilize the feeder. Then you cut down the sides of the silage bag about 4-ft. above the ground, fold back the top portion, and hook the bottom half of the bag to pins spaced 16 in. apart on the feeder, forming a feed trough. The sides can be moved toward the silage in 16-in. increments as cows eat up the feed. You simply turn the wheels 90° from traveling position to sliding-in position. Then you use a special adjusting wrench to slide the sides in. They ride on ball bearing rollers for ease of adjustment. Once all the feed is gone you extend the sides back to their full width and back the feeder around another section of forage.

"To feed six large round bales, simply position them side by side in two rows of three," says Schilling.  
Sells for \$3,575.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold and Alice Schilling, Schilling Systems, RR 1, Box 198, Colesburg, Iowa 52035 (ph 319 856-2595).

## "MY LAST CUSTOMER'S \$90,000 STRUCTURE HAD SAT EMPTY FOR 7 YEARS"

# He Turns Harvestores Into Conventional Silos

"I can convert a Harvestore® silo over to conventional storage for less than the cost of a rebuilt bottom unloader," says Indiana farmer and metal worker Jim Beckham who's converted six big blue silos over to conventional storage by adding doors, chutes and top unloaders.

Beckham says he keeps the cost down on Harvestore conversion by using galvanized steel doors rather than stainless steel. He converted his first Harvestore 3 years ago. He says most of his customers had problems with the bottom unloaders in their struc-

tures. "My last customer owned a \$90,000 20 by 70-ft. structure which had been sitting empty for 7 years. I converted it over to conventional storage by installing doors and a chute for \$5,500 plus the cost of a top unloader."

Beckham works all over the Midwest. "I'll work with customers in any way to solve their Harvestore silo problems."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Beckham, Silo Conversion Co., 2805 Armstrong Rd., New Albany, Ind. 47150 (ph 812 944-7102).



The "Rotovator" consists of two 5-ft. dia. steel discs mounted together on truck rims.

## CHEWS UP TREES AND BRUSH

# Home-Built "Rotovator" Breaks Rough Ground

"It's the best ground-breaking machine I've ever seen. Last winter I tested it on frozen ground. It worked up the ground so well it was ready to plant in the spring," says Ernest Gerber, Coronation, Alberta, about his home-built 140-rpm giant "rotovator" that he uses to break fallow ground or to bring new land into production.

The rotovator consists of two 5-ft. dia. steel discs, mounted together on truck rims and fitted with big industrial tiller teeth. The pto-driven tiller discs churn through soil down to 13 in. deep, and chew through trees up to 3 in. dia. Gerber says it'll even turn up rocks up to 24 in. dia. After one pass at speeds up to 6 mph, the soil is ready to plant.

"It leaves a smooth, even seedbed. You almost can't believe what a beautiful job it does," says Gerber, who got the idea for the machine from big industrial tillers that are 6 or 7 ft. wide but not as big in diameter as his machine. The industrial machines are used to tear up gravel or asphalt road beds and for other heavy tillage chores. In Gerber's area, farmers sometimes rent the industrial machines to work new ground. He doesn't like the machines, however.

"They turn to the back so they push the tractor forward. You need a big 4-WD tractor just to hold them back. Also, they run at up to 900 rpm's and go only 6 in. deep, and they require extra motors to drive them. My machine turns counter-clockwise and cuts 13 in. deep using only a tractor pto and about a 150 hp. tractor," says Gerber.

He cut the 5-ft. dia. tiller discs out of 1-in.

thick steel plate. The big discs are welded to wheel rims off a 3-ton truck and mounted side-by-side on a heavy-duty truck rear end. Each disc is fitted with 36 tiller teeth facing alternate directions. The double set of tiller discs cut a strip 20 in. wide. Gerber can remove some of the teeth to reduce the width to 10 in. if needed for digging trenches for cable or pipe. The self-sharpening teeth cost \$8 apiece and are made to fit industrial tillers. After 3 years of use Gerber says he's yet to replace any teeth.

The tractor pto direct-drives the truck rear end. Gerber "rubber cushioned" the hookup between the pto and rear end drive-shaft using rubber belting. He can shift the 2-speed rear end between high and low to turn the tiller discs at either 140 or 180 rpm's. The rear end and tiller is raised and lowered hydraulically on loose lengths of chain that allows the tiller to "jump" up when it hits a rock or other obstacle.

Gerber pulls the rotovator with a 2470 Case. "I've never plugged it. At 6 in. deep I can run at 5 to 6 mph. When you run over trees or brush, you have to slow down to chew them up. A large metal shield protects the tractor and the operator from dirt and debris thrown up by the machine. It takes a while to break new ground but it does such a great job you can plant into it after one pass with the machine," says Gerber, who spent less than \$1,000 to build the machine.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ernest Gerber, Box 158, Coronation, Alberta T0C 1C0 Canada (ph 415 578-4180 or 578-2194).



Jim Beckham added doors, chutes, and top unloaders to these Harvestore silos.