

## “Mr. Fluffy” Bucket Handles Big, Lightweight Loads

A big oversized tractor bucket means fewer trips when handling lightweight, fluffy loads like loose hay, sawdust, leaves, garbage, baling twine, garbage and grass seed.

“It saves fuel and time,” says Rogers Smith, Aerlanden Load Implements Co., Yamhill, Ore., who designed the “Mr. Fluffy Bucket” for smaller tractors, and what he calls “Big Mouth Marvin” for larger ones. Each holds roughly four times more volume than a conventional loader.

Smith admits that one drawback is the buckets’ added weight. Mr. Fluffy weighs 300 lbs. more than a conventional bucket and the Big Mouth Marvin weighs 500 lbs. more.

That means they can’t be used to handle high-density material, such as gravel or dirt.

These new buckets are produced to fit any

brand of tractor with colors to match. All that’s needed is the OEM attachment hardware and the specific template for the brand and model of tractor.

The suggested retail price for the standard Mr. Fluffy Bucket is \$1,250, and the Big Mouth Marvin model retails for \$2,095.

“If you’re interested in one of these buckets but your local dealer hasn’t heard of our products yet, print out the flier on our website and show it to them. Our goal is to sell through dealers,” says Smith.

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Oversized loader bucket has about four times more volume than a conventional bucket.

## Flatbed Trailer Built From Swather Tongues

“It’s extremely heavy-duty,” says Jordan Dettmer, a high school senior who built a 30-ft. long flatbed trailer that weighs a little over 3,000 lbs. He used Hesston swather tongues to build it.

He spliced several of the tongues together to form the main frame and made crossbars from the frames of junked tillage equipment.

The trailer rides on two 6,000 lb.-Torflex axles fitted with slightly used tires. He bought 1/8-in. thick diamond plate fenders to cover the four tires.

A 2-ft. long beaver tail stores underneath the back of the trailer. “The ramps are held in place by a single rod that simply falls over the gap so they can’t slide out.

“The tail lights are inside lengths of 6 by 6 tubing that are rubber-mounted to the frame. The light bar in back is set just beneath the hook for the ramps shielding it from harm.

The running lights have a semi-circular design that protects them as well.”

There’s a removable steel guard on front of the 6 1/2-ft. wide by 18-ft. long platform.

“There was a lot of what looked like wasted space in the front so I came up with the idea of using the area for storage,” Dettmer says. He installed expanded metal under the frame. It’s a great place to hold tow blocks, gas cans or unused tie-down straps. Hooks on the frame make it easy to strap things down.

“Because the frame is so heavy, we couldn’t lift it up after it was put together so I welded all the stringers and the axles on upside down,” he says. “I also laid underneath to paint it, too.”

He spent about \$1,500 to build the trailer and suspects a new rig like it would cost about \$4,000.

After graduating in May, Dettmer wants



Jordan Dettmer, a high school senior, used Hesston swather tongues to build this heavy duty, 30-ft. long flatbed trailer.

to attend Kansas State and major in civil engineering.

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## Multi-Purpose Sheep Catching On

As its name suggests, the Finnsheep breed originates in Finland - where it’s known as Finnish Landrace. This rare, multi-purpose sheep is thought to be several hundred years old, and was first imported to North America via Canada in 1966.

According to Finnsheep Breeders’ Association secretary Cynthia Smith, of Hominy, Okla., the group has averaged 426 new lamb registrations annually over the past seven years.

“There are currently only about 250 registered animals in the Canadian flock, most of which are in Quebec and Ontario,” says Canadian Finnsheep Breeders’ Association secretary Kathy Playdon of Stony Plain, Alta.

Finnsheep are a horn-less breed of small stature. Adult ewes average between 130 and 180 lbs., and rams generally weigh between 170 and 240 lbs. Combined with their friendly, docile nature, this makes them easy to handle, even for women.

“Because of their prolific nature, they’re primarily used in commercial flock cross-breeding programs to increase production, but demand for wool and meat is quickly increasing as well,” Smith says.

As of late, Finnsheep have become popular with hand spinners for their lustrous, soft and lightweight fiber, which blends easily with other fibers.

Most North American Finnsheep are pure white, but they’re also readily available in black and black/white piebald (spotted). Less common colors are grey, brown and fawn.

They’re early maturing, with ewes lamb-

ing by 12 months of age. Even at this tender age, ewes commonly produce twins and triplets, according to Smith.

“As a whole, the breed is known for also regularly producing quadruplets and quintuplets,” she says. “Fortunately, Finnsheep are also excellent mothers. Adult ewes often have plentiful milk for up to three babies, and some of the more exceptional mothers can handle four.”

Records also show several litters of octuplets and septuplets.

Small, vigorous lambs make for easy births, as well.

This breed tends to have greater tolerance to heat and cold than most of their domestic peers. They are browsers, so they enjoy leaves and brush as much as pasture.

Finnsheeps’ lean but juicy meat has a mild, tender and delicate flavor, and is popular with ethnic populations.

Prices for registered lambs (ram or ewe) vary geographically but can average between \$200 and \$300, Smith says. Rare colors bring a premium.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Finnsheep Breeders’ Association, Cynthia Smith, FBA Secretary, HC 65, Box 517, Hominy, Okla. 74035 (ph 918 519-4140; cindyusmith@yahoo.com; www.finnsheep.org) or Canadian Finnsheep Breeders’ Association, Kathy Playdon, Box 10, Site 10, R.R.#4, Stony Plain, Alta., Canada T7Z 1X4 (ph 780 963-0416; kathy@superhorse.com; www.finnsheep.ca).



The Finnsheep is a rare, multi-purpose sheep breed. They have become popular with hand spinners for their lustrous, soft and lightweight fiber.

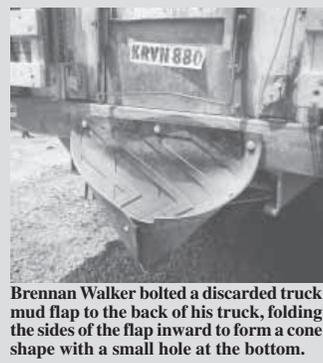
## Mud Flap Seed Chute

If you buy bulk seed and use a bucket to fill your planter or drill, you’ll be interested in this idea from Brennan Walker of Lincoln, Neb.

“I bolted a discarded truck mud flap to the back of my truck. I folded the sides of the flap inward to form a cone shape, leaving about a 5-in. diameter hole at the bottom. Then I bolted the flap sides together with one bolt.

“Now when I fill my basket or bucket I spill very little, if any, seed. It works great.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brennan Walker, 6600 Raymond Rd., Lincoln, Neb. 68517.



Brennan Walker bolted a discarded truck mud flap to the back of his truck, folding the sides of the flap inward to form a cone shape with a small hole at the bottom.