

Auger Turns Loader Into Mini Feeder

Why buy a feed wagon for a small herd when you can do the same job with a loader bucket? Cody Shay modified his loader to feed ethanol byproduct and found it works great for silage, too. Using the byproduct has cut his hay cost by a third, his cattle love it and his neighbors are ordering their own.

"When the ethanol plant went in nearby, I wanted to take advantage of the byproduct," says Shay.

He cut a 6-in. hole in one end of his 84-in. loader bucket and installed a 6-in. poly auger that extends out through the hole. At the other end, a hydraulic motor powers the auger. A chain running off a sprocket at the motor end of the auger also powers an agitator that prevents bridging. Shay designed the agitator so it can easily be removed. "If I'm feeding corn or pellets, I don't need the agitator," says Shay. "However, silage and wet materials will both bridge up. I need an agitator for them."

Shay uses a tub grinder to prepare and drop hay in a windrow. He then drives back

down the row, using the auger to drop silage or ethanol byproduct over the top.

"The cattle go crazy for it, like kids for candy, and I can even get by with baled corn stalks if I need to," he says. "The biggest thing for me is that it makes feeding the cattle a one-man job. I can go in and pick up a bucketful and carry 1,000 lbs. of wet byproduct or about 700 lbs. of silage."

Shay's neighbors liked what they saw. Several asked him to build units for them. He has applied for a patent and is now looking for a company to partner with.

"I've been charging about \$1,500 when they supply their own loader bucket," says Shay. "I don't have the time or facilities to build them. I need someone to build and market them for me."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cody Shay, 2289 110th St., Shannon City, Iowa 50861 (ph 641 772-4529; cody@advancedag.com).



To turn his loader into a mini feeder, Cody Shay installed a hydraulic-powered, 6-in. dia. poly auger in the bucket. An agitator above auger prevents bridging.

Plastic Studs Great For Finishing Concrete Walls

Instead of wood, consider using plastic studs the next time you have to finish off a concrete wall, whether it's a basement, warehouse or milk house. Made of 100 percent recycled plastic, the EcoStud doesn't rot, rust, support mold or mildew growth — and termites don't like it.

Plastic studs are also better than steel studs, says Erik Kiilunen, president of Superior Polymer. Steel studs create cold spots where water vapor condenses. "Plastic resists the transfer of thermal energy, eliminating the cold spots. It's an insulator versus a conductor," Kiilunen says.

The studs have the same dimensions as wooden or steel studs, but have a wall thickness of .090 in., so more insulation can be placed between them. The studs speed up wall installation and they can be cut with saws or snips. No top and bottom plates are needed, there is a predrilled nailing flange,

and each stud has 2-in. holes 18 in. from the top and bottom for plumbing and wiring.

Because they weigh about half as much as wood, they're much easier to handle. The space between the studs can be filled with all types of insulation. Kiilunen, who also does spray foam insulation, has developed a simple technique to use spray foam on the plastic studs.

"It's a nice way to finish out a milk house," he says, since the walls can be powerwashed without concerns of rotting or mold.

Architects are incorporating the newly patented EcoStud and Eco Z (based on a popular steel Z-furring system that holds foambord insulation) into their specifications.

Expect to pay more for EcoStuds up front, but Kiilunen says installed cost of the system is less because they install with substantially less labor, and since they are made of plastic they outlast wood and steel as long as they



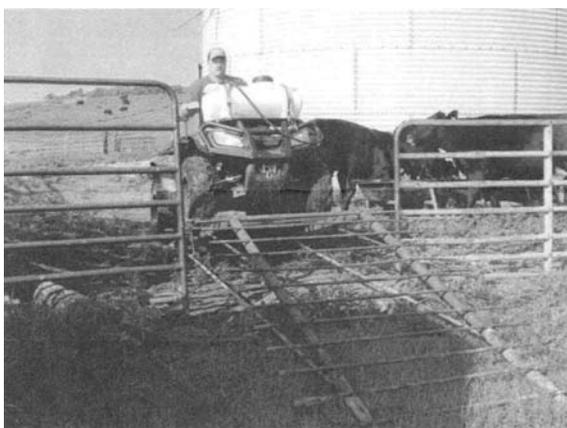
Made of 100 percent recycled plastic, the EcoStud doesn't rot, rust, or support mold or mildew growth.

aren't exposed to UV rays.

EcoStuds and Eco Z comes in 8, 10 and 12-ft. lengths and thicknesses from 1 to 3 1/2 in. They are made in the U.S. and sold through the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Erik Kiilunen, 25280 Renaissance Rd., Calumet, Mich. 49913 (ph 877 586-5543; www.superiorpolymer.com).

Donald Clements's up-and-over ATV cattle guard eliminates the need to open and close gates.



ATV Cattle Guard

Forget about opening and closing gates to check calves with an ATV. Just build an up-and-over cattle guard like Donald Clements and set it up at calving time.

"I opened and closed gates four or five times a day for years, and then late one day when I was worn out, the idea came to me," says Clements. "I built a portable cattle guard just big enough for a four-wheeler."

Clements fabricated the portable cattle guard from 4-in. oil pipes for the main frame and 1-in. oil field sucker rods for cross rails and braces. The full unit is 16 ft. long and 5 ft. wide. The larger diameter oil pipes bridge in the center 25 in. above the ground. Two long sucker rods run from near one end of

each long pipe to the other end for added support. Crossing sucker rods are welded in place at 8-in. intervals.

"The recycled pipes and rods cost only \$28, and the whole thing took less than five hours to build. It will save countless hours of opening and closing gates, not to mention getting the occasional cow that got out," says Clements. "Not only does it speed up the work, but checking a cow one more time is now no problem."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Clements, 1877 St. Rt. 359, Morganfield, Ky. 42437 (ph 270 389-0527; clem2245@bellsouth.net).



Using galvanized fence panels, Malva Nisley made this trash burner that sits off the ground so ashes fall through for easy cleanup.

"Fast And Neat" Trash Burner

Malva Nisley has a better idea when it comes to burning trash. Using galvanized fence panels, he made a burner that sits off the ground and provides full ventilation.

"The fence panels are built into an octagon shape and have 2 1/4 by 4-in. holes," says Nisley. "We cut a second panel that was about 16 in. longer than the width of the octagon. We bent the ends to make 8-in. legs and set the octagon on it."

Nisley cut a third piece of panel to fit the top of the octagon. He then used hog rings

to attach the octagon to the floor and hinge the top in place.

The floor keeps the burner off the ground so trash doesn't get soaked and allows ashes to fall through for later disposal.

"It's nice to have the lid on it," says Nisley. "We can throw the trash in, light it and walk away."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Malva Nisley, 3321 Township Road 412, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 (ph 330 893-1058).