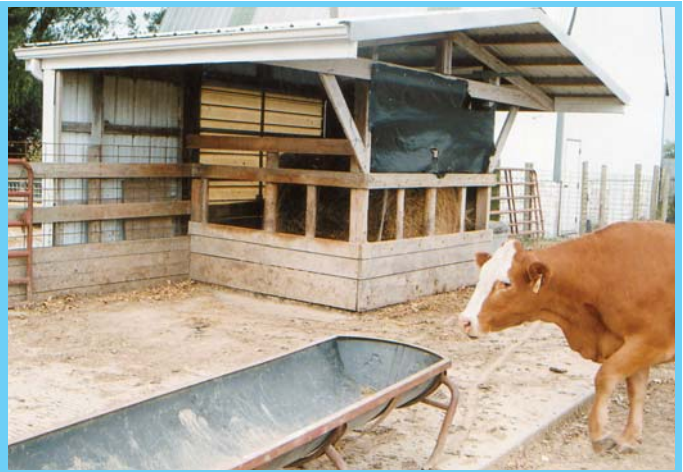


Tom De Clerck's covered round bale feeder looks like an unfinished building with 3 open sides. Rolling, hand-operated fiberglass garage door wall opens to load bales into feeder.



Sheet metal cover has a pitched roof and hangs 7 ft. over two sides of feeder and 3 ft. in the middle.

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Covered Fenceline Bale Feeder

Tom De Clerck, Pana, Ill., says his cattle do a lot better since he built a covered round bale feeder that looks like an unfinished building with 3 open sides.

"In the past, a big round bale would last about four days. Now with the cover it'll last about a week. There's a 4-in. high raised floor under the feeder that helps keep the hay dry underneath," says De Clerck.

The bale feeder measures 7 ft. sq. and sets on a concrete floor in De Clerck's cattle pen. The cover over the feeder is built from sheet metal and has a pitched roof, with gutters directing rainwater outside the pen. The cover hangs 7 ft. over two sides of the feeder, and 3 ft. in the middle. The fourth side of the cover is a sheet metal wall that forms part of the pen's fence. A rolling, hand-operated

fiberglass garage door in the wall is opened to load bales into the feeder.

"It keeps the hay dry as well as the animals," says De Clerck. "It really cuts down on hay waste because the hay doesn't get wet like it would sitting out in the open. I built it from used lumber that I already had, and from new sheet metal.

"If I could do it over I'd lengthen the 3-ft.

hangover to provide even more protection. I attached a big sheet of yard fabric above that side of the feeder, which also helps keep out rain and snow."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom De Clerck, 462 N. 2300 E. Rd., Pana, Ill. 62557 (ph 217 825-7127).



Generator mounts on a homemade wooden dolly and is driven off riding mower's front pto.

Riding Mower-Mounted Generator "Goes Anywhere"

"I've never had a standby generator at my place so I always felt a bit vulnerable to power outages. I decided to mount a generator on front of an old riding mower equipped with a front pto, and I couldn't be more pleased with it. It lets me produce portable electric power any time and any place I need it," says Patrick Lucas, Fairfield, Ct.

He bought a Howard Price 1260 Turf Blazer riding mower cheap, equipped with a Yanmar 40 hp diesel engine. The mower was originally equipped with two wing decks and a front-mounted, pto-driven deck. All 3 decks were hydraulically raised and lowered. He removed all the decks and mounted a new 16-kw generator on front. A small crane made from 2-in. angle iron is welded to the lift linkage that was already on front of the mower. The crane and a small chain are used to raise and lower the generator for transport.

He made a dolly out of 2 by 4's and mounted the generator on it. The dolly rides on 4 heavy-duty caster wheels, allowing Lucas to transport the generator without having to lift it all the time.

"I built it about five years ago and use it 2 or 3 times a year whenever we have a power failure," says Lucas. "We had a tornado here last June, and I was able to help neighbors keep things going, too.

"I put a Gen-Tran switch in my house

so that I can plug in an 'umbilical cord' that's attached to the generator. I use the generator to operate my well, furnace, stove, refrigerator, freezer, and a sump pump in the basement."

Lucas paid \$2,200 for the generator and bought the mower for "next to nothing".

"I spent more than 40 years in the golf course maintenance business as a superintendent so I'm familiar with most types of equipment used by golf courses. At one time Howard Price mowers were very popular at golf courses, parks, athletic fields, airports, etc., although they're not being made any more. But many places still have them just lying around or in limited use.

"You can buy other brands of used 'out front' mowers, such as Jacobsen, Toro, and Deere, which would do the same thing. But they're usually more expensive, whereas you can usually buy Howard Price mowers for little or nothing. Your local golf course superintendent should be able to put you in touch with equipment sales people who know what kinds of used equipment is available. Or, check out the website www.TurfNet.com and click on 'used equipment'."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patrick Lucas, 1055 Banks North Road, Fairfield, Conn. 06824 (ph 203 292-6282; pal.golf@yahoo.com).

Trap Monitor Calls You When Animal Is Caught

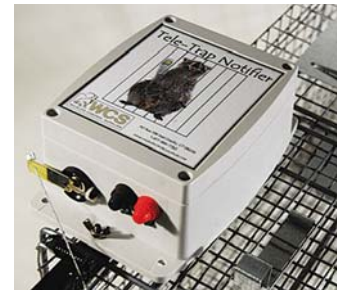
If you do a lot of trapping, you'll like this remote trap monitor that calls you as soon as an animal is caught.

The WCS Tele-Trap Notifier uses a cell phone to notify you right away when a trap has been triggered. It can be installed on virtually any trap equipped with a door.

"It's geared to professional pest control firms, but anyone can use it. It comes in handy for hard-to-reach or remote locations," says Dan Bouchard, Wildlife Control Supplies, East Granby, Conn.

The unit measures 8 in. long by 6 in. wide by 3 in. high and clips onto the top of the trap. It comes with an internal cell phone and a plastic tab that's attached to one end of a wire; the other end of the wire attaches to the trap's door. When the trap's door closes, the tab is dislodged from an electrical contact. The unit then "wakes up" and dials whatever number you've programmed it to call. It takes less than 1 1/2 min. from the time the animal is trapped for the call to be made. As a backup, 5 min. later a second call is made, as a reminder if the first call isn't acknowledged.

"It really comes in handy for anyone who doesn't want an animal inside a trap for too



WCS Tele-Trap Notifier uses a cell phone to let you know right away when an animal has been caught.

long, such as when trapping in public areas," says Bouchard. "A prepaid TracFone cell phone is used so there's no monthly service fee. You only pay for the minutes that are actually used."

Sells for \$349.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wildlife Control Supplies, P.O. Box 538, East Granby, Ct. 06226 (ph 877 684-7262 or 860 844-0101; dan.bouchard@wildlifecontrolsupplies.com; www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com).

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 website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

FARM SHOW

"Made It Myself"