



Bale feeder is made out of 16-ft. cattle panel bent into a circle around a square wood pallet. Panel ends are secured with snap hooks.

## Do-It-Yourself Bale Feeder

To avoid spending money on commercially-made bale feeders, Bob and Paula Nelson came up with a way to make their own out of 16-ft. cattle panels.

"We bend a cattle panel into a circle around a square wood pallet, securing the ends of the panel with small snap hooks. The wire anchors itself on the corners of the pallet. We then use bolt cutters to cut 3 square openings in the panel that are large enough for livestock to get their heads through to reach the hay.

"To load in a new bale, we simply undo the snap hooks, unwrap the cattle panel, and set the bale on the pallet. We then wrap it back up.

"The panel gets easier to work with after a couple of times as it starts conforming to a rounded shape. The pallet keeps the bale off the ground, allowing rain to drain through. The weight of the bale on the pallet keeps animals from tipping the feeder over. This method has worked very well and there's little wasted hay. Total cost: \$22 for the cattle



Animals reach the hay through square openings cut into panel.

panels. We already had pallets."

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Calvin and Doug Kiffer converted a garden tractor into this "dump tractor", building the bed to match the loader bucket on their Cub 1782 tractor.

## Handy "Dump Tractor" Made From Old Cub

We spotted this Cub tractor with a dump box in a recent issue of Lawn and Garden Collector Magazine ([www.lawnandgardencollector.com](http://www.lawnandgardencollector.com)). It looks factory-made and we thought it looked like a practical idea.

The "Dump Tractor" was built by Doug Kiffer and his father, Calvin, a year ago and was popular at several Cub tractor events in Pennsylvania last year.

"We built it for two reasons," Doug explains. "First, every winter we have a project we do. Also, I have a tractor with a loader, and I thought it would be nice to have a dump trailer to use with it."

A Pennsylvania Panzer dump tractor they saw in the spring of 2009 inspired the Kiffers. They chose to go with a Cub because the wheelbase needed to be extended, and that was much easier with the Cub's lengthwise driveshaft than with a belt-driven model. They bought an inexpensive, stripped 1976 Cub Cadet 1650 off eBay.

After replacing the rear end hydraulic relief valves, they cut the frame behind the rear seat mounts and extended the frame 32 in. with 3/16-in. steel they bent into C-channel to weld to the existing frame. They made dual wheels with a heavy-duty plastic drainpipe and all-thread, beefed up the rear with a brace, and extended the drive shaft and all the controls.

They built the bed out of 40 by 48-in., 12-gauge metal to match the bucket size



Bed lifts and lowers with an electric-powered hydraulic pump and cylinder.

on Kiffer's 1782 Cub. Calvin designed the tailgate with pivots on top so it would dump like a full-size dump. The bed lifts and lowers with an electric-powered hydraulic pump and cylinder that came from a tow-behind trailer.

"It's on the right side under the fender for protection," Kiffer says. The car battery to run it is under the left fender.

The dump works perfectly and can handle a 500-lb. load. The Kiffers used the trailer to haul and dump chips after cutting trees, and they plan to haul dirt and rocks with it this year.

The Kiffers were pleased with the quality and looks of their dump tractor, which they painted in authentic Cub Cadet colors. They have been invited to bring it to more events in their area.

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## Impact Wrench-Driven Bead Breaker

"Our new impact bead breaker works off any impact gun or pneumatic air ratchet. It can be used on a wide variety of tire and wheel combinations and will easily break the hardest bead," says Felicity Ochoa, Ochoa Roadrunner Products, Alamogordo, New Mexico.

All that's needed to operate the new-style bead breaker is a 1/2-in. drive impact wrench. The unit comes with upper and threaded lower sockets. The lower socket is used to clamp onto the bead and draw the tool into the tire. A handle on back of the tool is used to apply leverage as you draw the tire in. Once you get the tire straight up and down, you use the upper socket to push the bead down off the wheel rim.

"It works fast and is simple to operate. There's no need for a cumbersome foot-operated hydraulic pump or anything else," says Ochoa. "It locks into the wheel and draws it in, then uses a separate action to push the bead down so it can't slip or pop out. It can be used on anything from small ATV tires to large tractor tires."

The impact bead breaker sells for \$509 plus S&H. The company also sells several impact wrench-driven tire demounting tools.

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All you need to operate impact bead breaker is a 1/2-in. drive impact wrench. Handle on back of tool is used to apply leverage as you draw tire in.



Truck Chaps are made from Cordura nylon with a foam layer in the middle. They're held in place with 8 small rare earth magnets.

## "Truck Chaps" Protect Pickup Sides

Bedliners protect the inside of your pickup box from dents and scratches. New "Truck Chaps" protect the outside.

"They're great when working around the farm hauling brush, moving supplies and doing whatever needs to be done," says inventor Larry Zahasky, Mustang, Okla. "I came up with the idea one day when my wife and I were loading brush into my pickup in our back yard. The scratches created by my wife almost caused a divorce."

The value of a pickup decreases by up to 25 percent if it has a lot of dents and scratches, says Zahasky. "So if you're going to spend \$40,000 for a pickup, why not protect the outside along with the inside?"

Truck Chaps are made from Cordura nylon

with a foam layer in the middle. They're held in place with 8 small rare earth magnets that measure 1/8 in. thick and 3/4 in. wide. The magnets, although small, are extremely powerful.

Truck Chaps fit 5 1/2 and 6-ft. pickup beds of any brand. Eventually Zahasky plans to make them available for longer beds.

For now, Truck Chaps come only in camouflauge. However, Zahasky says he may expand to matching colors.

A pair of Truck Chaps sell for \$149.95 plus S&H.

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