

“Side Dump” Grain Cart

“With no pto and no augers or fighting to wear out, our new side dump grain cart will greatly reduce maintenance costs. And kernel damage will be minimal,” says Dana Ienn, Feeding Systems, LLC, Columbus, Neb. The new-style cart was on display at the recent Husker Harvest show near Grand Island, Neb.

The side dump grain cart operates off tractor hydraulics and is equipped with 4 large hydraulic cylinders - 2 to raise and lower the box and 2 to tilt and dump it. It’s available in 3 different models with 900 to 1,100 bu. capacity. The 2 larger models can be mounted on either tracks or wheels.

“These carts operate on the same principle as the stationary carts we’ve sold for years to

load feed trucks used by feedlot operators,” says Ienn. “The 900-bu. wheeled model is designed to handle silage, while the 1,100 bu. model that rides on tracks can handle silage as well as shelled corn and earlage. It can unload 1,100 bu. of high moisture corn in only about one minute.”

The side dump grain carts sell for \$65,000 to \$120,000. An optional hydraulic-operated grain cart trailer is available to save wear and tear on tracked models.

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Side dump grain cart is equipped with 4 large hydraulic cylinders – 2 to raise and lower the box and 2 to tilt and dump it. There’s no pto, augers or fighting to wear out.

Homemade Goat Feeders

Within a couple of days of being born, goat kids are ready to chew on something. Marty Olson is ready for them with his mini feeders made from 15-gal. plastic barrels.

“They’re easy to fill, there’s less waste, and they’re easy to make,” says the Long Prairie, Minn., dairy goat farmer.

He has plenty of barrels from various fluids that he uses on the farm. After he flushes them clean, he cuts 2-in. holes with a round hole saw along the sides. He uses a reciprocating saw to cut the top big enough to fill with alfalfa.

“You need to support the top hole. I screw through the top into a 2 by 4,” Olson explains. He uses another piece of 1 by 2 or 2 by 4 on the inside of the back to secure it to the side of a pen.

“It must be high enough so they don’t jump in it,” Olson says.

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Goat mini feeders are made from 15-gal. plastic barrels with part of the top cut off and 2-in. dia. holes cut into the sides.



Portable pen makes it easy to move a small flock of sheep or goats between pastures. It’s made of 4 panels and a gate with a 16-ft. square enclosure.

Portable Pen Simplifies Grazing

“Our portable Sheep Tractor Pen takes the time and labor out of moving a small flock of sheep or goats from one pasture to another,” says Dan May, who builds the pen components on his farm near Waco, Texas. Each pen is made of 4 panels and a gate leading to a 16-ft. square enclosure that comfortably handles 8 sheep or goats.

May says his friend John Adams built the first Sheep Tractor Pen and installed 16-in. wheels on each corner. The 4 panels are made with 1-in. square tubing that surrounds 4-ft. high by 16-ft. long welded-wire metal livestock fencing. The tubing creates rigid panel sections held together at 90-degree angles with two metal pins on each end. The center of one section has a 4-ft. wide gate on metal hinges to move animals in and out.

The complete 16-ft. square enclosure rides

6 in. off the ground on “wobble wheels” mounted on each corner. May says “one person can easily move the 700-lb. pen in any direction in just a few minutes. It’s a whole lot easier than having electric fences with posts, and the animals never have to leave the pen.”

May says he normally has 8 sheep in the pen on his farm, but he also substitutes a calf or small beef animal for a few sheep and that works too. “We’ve done modifications to the panels for people who want to use the pen for pigs and goats and even poultry. How many animals the enclosure holds depends on how dense the grass is. They also have an optional canopy that provides shade to half the enclosure at a time.

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Shop Vac Sucks Away Hornet Problem

Bill Southwell found a new use for his shop vac when he discovered a nest of hornets under his deck.

“I couldn’t get at the nest,” says Southwell. “To make matters worse, my dog’s house sits on the deck directly over where the nest was located. The entry and exit hole for the hornets was right in front of the dog house. Because it’s a low deck, I couldn’t get at it from underneath.”

After some thought he went for his shop vac.

“I laid the business end of the hose on the deck floor next to the hornets’ entry

and exit and secured it with a floor mat. I turned on the machine, thumped on the dog house and stamped on the deck. As fast as the angry hornets came boiling out of their nest, the shop vac sucked them up. Not one got away. I repeated the process four times that day and once the next, and I followed each one with a healthy shot of Raid into the shop vac to settle the critters down. Problem solved.”

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Organic Hay Pays Off For Minnesota Farmer

Carmen Fernholz has been growing hay organically for more than 40 years, and he says it pays off in 3 ways. He has a strong market of organic dairy producers. It builds soil for his crop rotation, and it controls Canada thistle.

“Canada thistle is the most challenging weed for me farming organically,” says Fernholz. “A good solid stand of pure alfalfa left in place for 3 years is the best practice I’ve found to keep Canada thistle at an acceptable level.”

Fernholz seeds his alfalfa at about 15 lbs. per acre with a cover crop of oats, wheat, barley or dry field peas. He harvests the cover at maturity.

“If you plant as early as possible, the alfalfa sprouts, but then lays quiet,” says Fernholz. “When you take the cover crop off, the alfalfa blossoms through.”

With later frosts, Fernholz thinks he could take a cutting of alfalfa the first year. Normally he clips it with a rotary mower twice. The first clipping is about a month after harvesting the cover crop. The second is about a month later, especially if he gets weeds coming through with the regrowth.

“Chopping it off provides more cover and biomass to the field,” says Fernholz.

Fernholz hasn’t had many serious insect or disease pests in his fields since alfalfa weevils struck 5 years ago.

“They would come in toward first bud stage, and when you cut, the larvae would form under the windrows and devastate the stubble,” recalls Fernholz. “That allowed grasses like foxtail to come through.”

Fernholz applies 1,500 to 2,000 gal. of liquid hog manure to his alfalfa each fall for needed phosphorus and potassium. When it is time to terminate the alfalfa, he does it with a 2-pass system. He rips and chisels the ground in the fall and follows with a second pass with a field cultivator in the spring. Once



Carmen Fernholz says organic hay production builds soil for his crop rotation and also helps control Canada thistles.

terminated, he follows with a year of corn and one of soybeans before planting the soil again to alfalfa.

Fernholz says organic hay production has been an important part of his operation and not just because of the premium paid. In fact, for the first 20 years he raised it, he sold it on the conventional hay market.

“If you have an organic dairyman within 100 miles, that is usually the best market,” says Fernholz. “However, even without a premium, alfalfa is terrific for building soil structure. I can see the benefits 4, 5, 6 years later.”

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