Compact Wagons Ideal For Smaller Jobs

Compact wagons from E-Z Trail are the perfect match for compact tractors and small jobs on any size farm. Equipped with the wag-free E-Z Trail tongue, the small wagons are ready for the road, field or yard. The wagons are available in orange, red, green, blue and black.

"People like picking their own color," says Vern Kuhns, E-Z Trail, Inc. "If a company orders a large enough quantity, we'll even do a custom color."

Wagon options include a 50-bu. gravity wagon, a 10 by 6-ft. flatbed, and a bale carrier/feeder wagon. The gravity box is 4 ft. wide, 6 1/2 ft. long and 57 in. tall. It can haul and self unload. Boxes and beds are mounted on 2-ton running gears. They come standard with 5.70-8 tires. A smaller 20.5 x 8-10 tire is available.

The gravity boxes have been used for everything from grain and feed to pellets, nuts, coal and citrus. Essentially, they are a good match for anything that flows.

"When corn burning stoves were popular, a lot of customers used them to transport and store corn," says Kuhns.

The Jr. Flat Bed holds up to 50 bales, but can also be used with other materials in orchards, nurseries or for landscaping. The 2 by 8-in. treated floorboards are framed in steel with stake pockets for sides. Custom bed sizes and larger tires can be ordered.

The standard Jr. Flat Bed and running gear sells for $1,250. The 50-bu. Gravity Wagon is priced at $1,510, and the 2-ton capacity Bale Carrier/Feeder Wagon is priced at $1,975.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-Z Trail Inc., P.O. Box 168, Arthur, Ill. 61911 (ph 217 543-3471; toll free 800 677-2802; www.e-ztrail.com).

Gravity wagons and Jr. Flat Beds from E-Z Trail make a great match for compact tractors and small jobs, says the company.

Portable livestock shade system is light enough to move with a skid loader. About 65 cattle can use the 31-ft. square unit.

Portable Shade System Easy To Move

A new portable livestock shade system by Rush-Co recently caught our attention because it is light enough to move with a skid loader. Fitted with a 625-gal. water tank as a base weight, it only weighs 1,600 lbs. when empty. After it is in place, water is added to increase the weight to 6,500 lbs. Since the tank is enclosed it isn't a water source for livestock, but it is plenty heavy to be stable in windy conditions.

After a couple of years of research and development, Rush-Co recently added the patent pending portable system to its line of highly engineered fabric and steel buildings, curtains and covers.

"The shade system pays for itself based on weight gain," says Dan Fathke, sales and marketing manager for Rush-Co. University studies show that cattle provided with shade in hot summer months put on more weight per day than cattle without shade. Shade reduces heat stress in cattle and increases milk production in dairy breeds.

The Rush-Co design includes a couple of unique features.

The two-piece Kedar cover system includes an 80/20 vinyl mesh cover with heat-sealed mesh seams. Rope fastened to the covers in a pocket runs through the Kedar extrusion. The cover is locked in place over the arched roof, eliminating wind whip.

The frame breaks down into lengths of galvanized steel tubing that fit on a pallet for shipping. With a loader and impact wrenches, a couple of people can bolt the predrilled frame together in two to four hours.

"The loader helps you reach the higher parts," Fathke says. "It has a 14-ft. clearance height."

That's helpful when using equipment to clean the area, he notes.

The 31 by 31-ft. unit can be supported by two 2 by 2 by 6-ft. concrete blocks instead of the 625-gal. plastic water tank (which is on a base with forklift sockets to move with a skid loader). About 65 cattle can use the shade and cost is about $4,500.

Shade is fitted with a 625-gal. water tank that serves as a base weight.

A larger 41 by 41 ft. unit shades about 100 cows, has a 1,000-gal. water tank, weighs 2,900 lbs without water and 11,000 lbs. with water and costs about $6,500. Rush-Co offers quantity discounts, which is popular with ranchers and feedlot owners.

Like Rush-Co's permanent livestock shade systems, the portable shade systems have a 5-year warranty on the cover system.

"It's nice with portables because in the winter, they pull them out of the feedlots so they don't have to clean around them," Fathke adds.

Rush-Co has a few dealers, but ships most of the shade systems direct from its Springfield, S.Dak., facility.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rush-Co. 1314 Walnut St., Springfield, S.Dak. 57062 (ph 866 776-5617; www.rush-co.com; info@rush-co.com).

Home-Built Controller Varies Fertilizer Rates

Indiana farmer Ben Taylor built a variable-rate controller for his dry fertilizer applicator that he says works like a million bucks. Taylor made the controller using about $100 in parts and his own imagination. The device is mounted on a 5-ton dry spreader that he bought at an online auction for $1,050. The project qualified for an EQIP grant from his local conservation office, so he was able to use that money to offset part of the development cost.

"My setup applies variable rate dry fertilizer for way less per acre than what I'd pay for custom application," Taylor says. "It's more than paid for itself on the 275 acres that I spread this year on our farm."

Taylor's device uses a remote control in his tractor to adjust the flow rate on the spreader as he travels across a field. The key component is a linear actuator that's commonly used to move solar panels so they rotate to capture the best angle of sunshine. Taylor mounted the controller to the sliding door on the back of the spreader, supported by a bracket he welded to the back of the tank. The controller is powered by a motorcycle battery that sits inside an old 30-cal. ammo can that he welded to the rear of the spreader.

Taylor developed his own field density maps based on grid sampling and says they're accurate to within a few pounds an acre. As he drives across a field, he uses a four-position switch to adjust the fertilizer flow rate from 75 to 300 lbs. per acre. A visual indicator mounted on the door also tells him what rate is being applied. He uses a green rope to turn the spreader on and a red rope to turn it off.

"My system isn't nearly as complex as a hydraulic system that runs on satellite imaging and grids, but it's definitely close enough for me," Taylor says.

Ben Taylor used about $100 worth of parts to build a variable-rate controller for his dry fertilizer spreader.

"The spreader is old, so I replaced the sprockets, bearings and shafts so it works like a new one. That together with the flow controller gives me a high-tech machine for a minimal investment," says Taylor. He also uses the spreader in the fall for applying cover crop seed.

"My wife and I are just in our third year farming so we're always looking for ways to get the most for our money, and this certainly fits the bill," says Taylor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ben Taylor, 1240 S. 1150 E., La Grange, Ind. 46761 (ph 260 351-2880; benjamintaylor@embarqmail.com).

How To Reach Us

To submit a "Made It Myself" Story Idea, New Product, Shop Tip, "Best or Worst Buy", or other information, send a note along with photos, drawings and literature, if available. We'll get back to you later if we need more details. Send to: Editor, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575); text: 952 465-5019; email: editor@farmshow.com; You can also submit information at our website: www.farmshow.com

To change your address, renew your subscription, take out a new subscription, order videos or books, or for other information regarding your subscription, contact: Circulation Department, FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com).