



Jeff Brown made this portable water rig using an old Army 6 by 6 truck. The 2,000-gal. poly tank delivers water to a trough along the side.



He used the same idea on an old military trailer pulled behind the truck. Photo shows small sheds he added later to cover the tanks to keep slime from forming inside tanks.

Mobile Watering Systems For Rotational Grazing

By Heather Smith Thomas

When stockmen practice rotational grazing and move cattle every day or two, they need a way to provide water in multiple pastures.

Jeff Brown, ranching with his father near Faith, South Dakota, made a portable water rig using an old Army 6 by 6 truck. The poly tank on the truck holds about 2,000 gal. and can be driven anywhere on the ranch to supply water. "We just drag some 1 1/2-in. high-density poly pipe around to fill the tank," says Brown.

At first he simply mounted the big tank on back of the Army truck. "With the sun shining on the yellow tank we would get hundreds of pounds of green slime in the tank during summer, so we covered the tank with a little

shed, which keeps it cooler," he says.

"We also found an old military trailer at an auction and put tanks on that, too, with water troughs along the side. The trailer is always hooked to the truck; they never get separated. The tank on the trailer holds 750 gallons."

The troughs are fastened solidly to the trailer - the rear one down low for calves and the two side ones for cattle. "The trailer is air ride, so when we get to where we want the troughs to be we use a dump valve to let the air out, so the whole trailer sinks down to where the cattle can reach the tanks easier," he explains.

The sources for water are wells, with pipelines from the wells. The wells are about

200 ft. deep and run about 15 to 20 gal. a minute.

"When cattle are drinking out of those troughs (with floats to shut off the water when they are full), the tanks stay hooked to the above-ground lines," he says. "We have other water tanks also, and can tap into pipelines from the wells. On one of our leased places we have about 6 taps, to service 2200 acres. We just drag the poly pipe around to where we need it, in 1,000-ft. pieces. We can drag a pipe through the pasture with our Polaris Ranger and hook it up to the water rig on the trailer," he explains.

He also made several small watering trailers out of scrap metal, to haul smaller

tanks around for smaller herds. "We have some tanks that can water 150 to 200 yearlings, and some smaller ones for smaller groups of cattle. We have big drains in the bottom of those tanks so when we need to move them we can just pull those tubes out and drain them, and then pull those tanks (on the small trailers) around the pastures with the Polaris Ranger. Empty, they are not very heavy," he explains.

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Modified Mower Blade

Bug Vogelzang says his Ariens mower cuts a lot better in thick, heavy grass since he modified the 30-in. mower blade by mounting swinging sickle sections on each end of the blade.

"I chop-sawed the ends of the blade off and then mounted sickle sections so that the total length is still 30 in.," says Vogelzang. "I heated the blade with a propane torch before drilling 1/2-in. dia. holes through it

and each sickle section."

Then he welded a nut to the mower blade and put a grade 8 bolt through from the bottom, and then double-nutted that. "If I should hit an obstacle, the bolt head usually hits before the blade so it stays sharp longer."

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Bug Vogelzang modified his mower blades with swinging sickle sections on each end to cut through heavy grass.

Magnetic Tail Lights "Totally" Wireless

Anyone who has experienced failure of trailer lights on the road can appreciate the wireless solution from EasyOn Lights.

"We have been selling these lights for 13 years now and have thousands of satisfied customers in the U.S. and Europe," says Lars Mandt of EasyOn.

What sets these lights apart from other wireless options on the market is that they are completely wireless. They don't rely at all on any existing wiring harness or plug.

Each light runs on two D size batteries and the remote on two AA size batteries. The lights can run for up to 40 hrs. on a set of batteries. No tools are required to install the magnetic lights. For applications where no metal surface is convenient to mount, a piece of metal or steel can be mounted to the vehicle to hold the lights.

They have a galvanized steel back plate and three 40# magnets on each light. Each unit also has a safety strap to prevent loss or damage.

The manual controls offer turn signals, running lights, brake lights and hazard lights all from a unit roughly the size of a garage door remote, which can be controlled from inside or outside the vehicle cab.

Moving a set from trailer to truck to wagon, etc., makes this a quick and easy solution to



Wireless magnetic tail lights run on two D batteries. No tools are required to install them.

stay safe and have lights on the road. They are cheap insurance" says Mandt.

EasyOn Lights sell for \$265 plus \$20 shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EasyOn Lights LLC, Beaverton, Ore. 97005 (ph 530 459-1142; lars@EasyOntailights.com).



Home-built, 3-pt. tool carrier rides on a pair of 8-in. wheels. A remote-controlled electric winch is used to raise and lower the implement.

Pull-Type, 3-Pt. Tool Carrier

"It turns my ATV into a powerful work vehicle that lets me do everything from grading driveways to cultivating gardens," says Alex Batten, Selma, N.C., about his home-built, 3-pt. tool carrier. It hooks up to a ball hitch on his Honda Rancher 4-wheeler. Batten uses a remote control to operate a 2,500-lb. electric winch that raises and lowers the 3-pt.

Made mostly from 1 1/4 and 2-in. tubing, the tool carrier rides on a pair of 8-in. wheels and a homemade axle. The winch operates off a 12-volt battery mounted on the carrier's tongue.

"I built it 1 1/2 years ago and find that it works even better than I expected," says

Batten. "So far I've used it with a 4-ft. box blade, a straight blade, and a cultivator, which I use to till food plots."

He bought new 3-pt. lift arms, a turnbuckle, electric winch, spindles, and wheels. "My total cost was about \$400, not including the tubing. Commercial 3-pt. tool carriers are available, but they come with a pump and attach directly to the 4-wheeler so it takes more time to install and remove them. Hooking up to a ball hitch is much easier."

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