

Portable Mineral Feeder Pulls Behind Water Tank

Jeremy Stilson didn't like the waste associated with conventional tub-type mineral feeders. So the Morley, Mich., farmer built a portable mineral feeder covered by a pitched rubber "roof" that cattle can push out of the way from either the front or back. He pulls the feeder behind a homebuilt water wagon that lets his herd keep grazing instead of walking home for water (Vol. 43, No. 2).

The 4 by 6-ft. wooden feeder mounts on top of an old trailer axle and consists of a box built from treated 2 by 6's and 2 by 12's. The box is supported by a frame made out of 4-in. channel iron and holds 2 rows of mineral blocks, one on front and one on back, with 8 blocks per row weighing a total of 800 lbs. The roof was made from a 4 by 6-ft. rubber mat designed for horse stalls and livestock trailers.

"The 2 rows of blocks are separated by a 2 by 12 divider, which gives the rubber mat roof its peak," says Stilson. "The center part of the mat is screwed down to the 2 by 12 divider, so cows can lift the mat up from both sides."



Portable mineral feeder is covered by a rubber "roof" that cattle can push out of the way. Stilson pulls feeder behind a home-built water wagon.

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"Best Buy" Backhoe Attachment

"My 2002 Amulet HoeClamp is one of my best buys ever," says John Lund, Rhinelander, Wis., who uses the unit on his Ford 4500 loader/backhoe (ph 800 526-8538; www.amulet.com).

The HoeClamp is a pin-on, full motion thumb that fits most standard and extendable dipper backhoe loaders, with no additional hydraulics needed. Utilizing unique linkage, it's operated by the backhoe's bucket curl. Most models feature digging, grasping and also a stored position.

"It's a mechanical clamp that mounts on a backhoe, replacing some of the linkage and pins," says Lund. "The HoeClamp moves as the bucket moves. It can be pinned in 2 different locations, depending on the type of work you're doing. I usually use it in a position where I can still dig. It's extremely useful in building rock walls, and is easier to use than a hydraulic thumb."

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Reader Inquiry No. 76



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