Portable Feeders Built Out of Trucks, Wagons

You can make handy portable hay feeders out of old truck and farm wagon chassis, says a Florida cattleman.

"I only have to feed my 700 head of cattle twice a week thanks to these big, easy to handle feeders," says Ellis W. Hitzing of Jacksonville. "If I were putting bales on the ground, I'd have to feed them every day."

Hitzing started making the portable hay feeders five or six years ago. He now has eight ranging in capacity from three to eight bales.

He used the frames and axles off old Ford and Allis-Chalmers farm wagons to make the two smallest feeders and converted trucks ranging in size from 1 to 4 tons to build the biggest units.

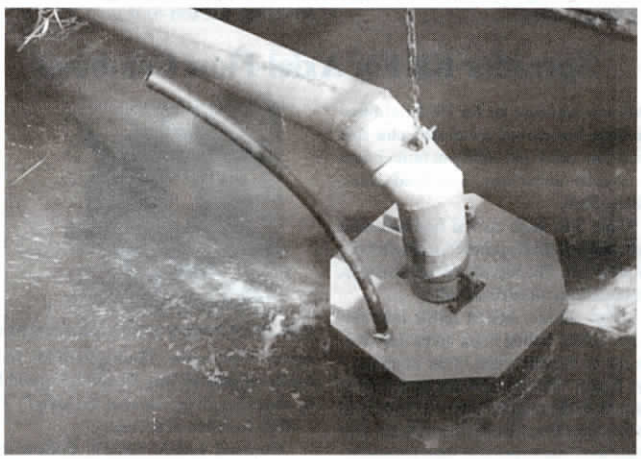
Hitzing makes racks to fit the rolling feeders out of 2-in. angle iron, but says pipe or other metal would work, too. He makes the U-shaped racks wide enough and high enough to handle the 1,250-lb. bales his New Holland baler turns out.

He makes tongues out of 3-in. pipe and mounts a 2 5/16-in. trailer ball hitch on back to pull more than one wagon at a time.

Hitzing loads bales into the racks with a set of old forks mounted on the bucket on his Ford 5000 tractor.

"You can just drop them off wherever you want to feed certain bunches of cattle," he says. "Cattle eat from underneath and water still runs off so there's very little waste."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ellis W. Hitzing, EWH Ranch, P.O. Box 3217, Jacksonville, Fla. 32206 (ph 904-353-0962; fax 3032).



In photo, the screened "suction box" is lifted out of the water to show jets of water that blast out the sides to keep screen clean.

Self-Cleaning Screen Keeps Irrigation Intake Clean

"I've got half a mile of poplar trees along my irrigation canal and their leaves were always plugging up the screen on the suction box in my dugout lagoon," says John Satre, who designed and built a rotating screen cleaner to solve the problem.

"I spent six years perfecting it. Water now flows continually through the system, greatly improving the efficiency of my high-pressure Cornell pump," says the Medicine Hat, Alberta, farmer. He irrigates 100 acres of alfalfa, hay, corn and potatoes with a traveling gun that pulls 700 gal. of water per minute through his 2-ft. dia. screened suction box.

The screen cleaner consists of two jet tubes fitted to opposite sides of the suction box. The jets are made out of 3/4-in. dia. pipe fitted with irrigation nozzles. A series of 7/32-in. dia. holes is drilled in the pipe at staggered intervals so the entire screen surface is cleaned as the jets revolve, powered by suction from the irrigation pump.

The jets turn at about 50 rpm's and produce enough pressure to keep debris from collecting on the screen, he says.

"All moving parts are pressure-lubricated and flushed constantly by water," he says. "I can't discuss all the details because I don't have my patent yet. But I believe this is the only screen cleaner ever developed that will work in trashy, adverse water situations like mine. Commercial units I've looked at simply wouldn't operate under these conditions."

Satre's hoping to find a manufacturer to produce the screen self-cleaner, which he built from miscellaneous odds and ends.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Satre, General Delivery, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada TIA 7E4 (ph 403-527-0257 or 526-5704).

Hydraulic 3-Pt. Top Link

"We got the idea for equipping our 806 Farmall with a hydraulic top link after we fitted the tractor with a set of forks for moving big bales," says Paul O'Neil, West Branch, Iowa.

"Our 806 had a 2-pt. hitch with 3-pt. adapters for the arms. We added a middle arm. The problem was that every time I backed up to a bale, I had to adjust the middle arm to get under the bale. And then once I had the bale lifted, I had to adjust the middle arm back towards the tractor so the bale wouldn't fall off.

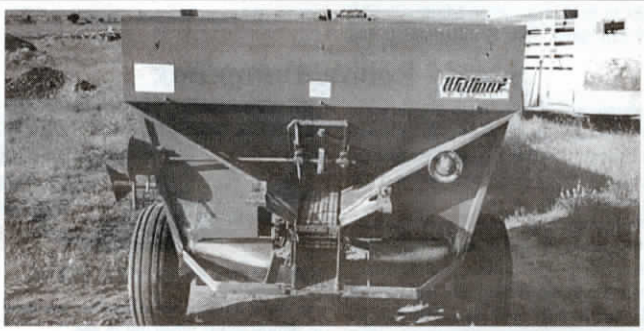
"After doing that a few times, I decided to use a hydraulic cylinder for the middle arm to make adjustment easy.

"The cylinder fit real well in the mounting brackets on the tractor and bale carrier and works even better than a conventional 3-pt. hitch since it lets you adjust the bale forks from the tractor seat to any type of terrain. Much more adjustment than a regular 3-pt. Lets you tip the bale right up against the back of the tractor.

"The idea has made our 806 much more useful. We use the same setup on our chisel plow, field cultivator, cultivator and rotary hoe. Lets us lift equipment even higher than a regular 3-pt.

"I've never seen anything like this on the market for 2-pt. tractor hitches."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul O'Neil, Box 234, 2281 Baker Ave., West Branch, Iowa 52358.



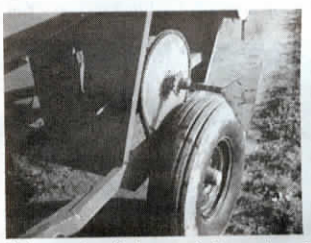
"Cake" Feeder Made Out Of Fertilizer Spreader

"I spent only $200 to make a cake feeder (for pelletized feed) out of an old dry fertilizer spreader but I feel it's very comparable to other feeders on the market," says Ben Busenbark, Winnett, Mont.

The only modifications he made to the spreader were to cut off the spreaders at the back, and the dividers inside the tank, and he added a chute on back for the feed to fall into so it wouldn't spread out as far as it did originally. He also turned the cross shaft to speed up the travel of the chain.

To keep track of how much feed is being fed, he mounted a large triangular shaped piece of metal on a large chain-drive gear just above the wheel. It turns when the chain is unloading. He painted one side of the marker a bright orange to keep track of the revolutions when turning. By counting the revolutions, he was able to calibrate the feeder. One complete revolution equals 14 1/2 lbs. fed out.

Since the feeder is ground-driven, it doesn't require any external power and pulls easily with a pickup. "I've used it for two years with no problems. I load a ton of cake into it at a time. This spring I started 200 head of yearlings on 3/4-in. pellets and had virtually no lost feed because I'm able to feed out even, precise amounts of feed. The feeder could easily be mounted in the back of a pickup but this way it doesn't tie up a vehicle.



"To operate, I stop with the painted side of the marker facing straight up, then I remove the tailgate on back and engage the drive system. Then I count the number of times the painted side of the marker comes around. When the right amount has been fed, I just stop, disengage, and reinstall the tailgate.

"I also made a loader to fill the feeder out of a small hopper off an old Case combine. It feeds out the bottom center. I put angle iron legs on the hopper so it'll stand on the ground, and put cables on top so it can be lifted up over the feeder with a loader. Then I just open a trap door on bottom of the hopper.

"One hint for anyone building one is to make sure the front of the feeder sits higher than the back so it will feed properly, and make the hitch long enough to allow for sharp turns "

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ben Busenbark, HC 65, Box 1006, Winnett, Mont. 59087 (ph 406 429-6251).