



## He Uses Grinder/Mixer To Chop Paper For Bedding

A feed grinder/mixer can be used to chop old newspapers into low-cost livestock bedding, according to Clarksville, Iowa, dairyman Dave Bolin.

"We use our New Holland 353 grinder/mixer to recycle newspapers, magazines, and junk mail into bedding in place of straw in our operation," says Bolin, who milks 70 Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys. "Paper takes the place of about 10 tons of straw per year. It saves us money and keeps old paper out of landfills as well."

Bolin gets the paper free from neighbors, the community recycling center, and the local newspaper.

To grind it, he uses a 3/4-in. screen, resulting in quarter-size pieces of paper that he feels are more absorbent than long shreds of paper.

He keeps the grinder/mixer's 8-in. dia. unloading auger running as he grinds the paper, discharging it into open calf sheds and hutches.

"It takes about the same time to bed the



calves with paper as it does with straw," he says, "but we save the time we used to spend baling straw."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Bolin, 30707 180th St., Clarksville, Iowa 50619 (ph 319 278-4288).

## Easy Way To Calibrate Air Seeders

"It works great when you're switching varieties, seed lots, or if you need to vary seeding rates between fields," says Ron Aberle about the simple system he uses to calibrate his air seeder.

The Menoken, N. Dak., farmer uses his Case-IH Concord 4812 air seeder to plant both oil and confection sunflowers, but feels the idea could be used with any seeder on any crop.

"Anytime you've got a huge tank you're dumping seed into, getting the proper seeding rate involves a certain amount of guesswork," he says. "Not with this system. It's extremely accurate."

He uses an open-ended rectangular box made out of 1/2-in. thick plywood with 2 by 2's in the corners. The 16 by 20-in. box is 7-ft. long.

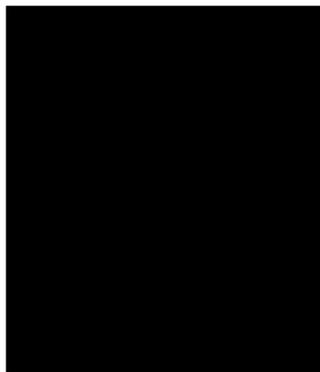
He lowers the box on end inside the empty tank of his drill so it sits right above the seed flute. He then empties a couple bags of seed into the box and drives around the yard until the seed settles. Next, he measures the distance from the top of the box to the top of the seed pile inside.

After that, he plants a few acres in the field. He once again measures the distance to the top of the seed in the box. Knowing the number of seeds in the bags emptied into the box, he then calculates how many were planted during the test run.

Dividing the number of acres seeded in the test by the number of seeds sown gives him per-acre seed drop.

If he's hit his desired population, he fills the box and begins planting. If not, he makes necessary adjustments and re-tests.

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## "Home Remedy" Still Effective Today

Despite being largely ignored or forgotten by veterinarians, castor oil is as effective today as it was years ago for sick calves, according to an Idaho beef producer.

"It has probably saved more acutely ill calves on our ranch than any other single medication," says Heather Smith Thomas, Salmon, Idaho. "Castor oil holds many advantages over mineral oil, which is often recommended.

"For one, it's given in smaller doses than mineral oil. Four ounces is enough to relieve bloat or blockage in a severely ill calf, compared with a pint or quart of mineral oil.

"It also stimulates the gut to move again as well as lubricating it, while mineral oil

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## Plastic Carpet Protector Makes Low-Cost Cattle Scratcher

A length of clear plastic carpet protector, secured around a 2 by 4-in. board, makes an excellent cattle scratcher for Stan Harder's herd of purebred Red Angus cattle. A length of chain attaches to each end of the 2 by 4, and it hangs in the corner of a corral.

"The carpet protector is reversed so the little knobs that normally hold the protector

to the carpet are on the outside," says Harder. "The knobs penetrate the hair and are just the right length to scratch the hide. Our cattle use them constantly so they last only about a year. However, it costs me only about \$5 to make a new scratcher."

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## Turpentine Treatment Saves Elm Trees

Here's how John Williams, New Albany, Ind., protects his elm trees from Dutch Elm disease:

"Bore a 3/4-in. hole about 1/2 in. deep into the tree. Put an elbow on one end of a 3/4 by 4-in. pipe nipple. Find a bottle that you can screw onto the elbow.

"Screw the nipple into the tree until tight,

then unscrew half a turn. Put 8 oz. of turpentine in the container for large trees, less for smaller trees. Turn the bottle upside down and screw into the elbow.

"For small trees up to 16 in. dia., you should start with 2 to 4 oz. or so. The amount isn't that critical. If you put too much it will burn the tree but it will recover.

"I treated one of my trees over 30 years ago and another one over 20 years ago. They were dying at the time but recovered fully after just one treatment. You can use anything that you can fasten to the side of the tree. A piece of garden hose or bent pipe will do.

"The turpentine works its way through the water vessels of the tree, destroying the fungus as it goes. Spring is probably the best time to treat a tree but it would probably work anytime during the growing season." (John Williams, New Albany, Ind., in Mother Earth News)



only lubricates. This makes castor oil better for relieving blockage from dirt, hairballs, or gut shut-down.

"It's also superior for treating calves with an acute gut infection a problem we sometimes experience in spring before calves go to summer pasture.

"We get castor oil from our local phar-

macy, which special orders it from a supply house, for \$30 to \$40 a gallon. That's enough to last for several years unless we have a cold wet spring like this last one when disease was more prevalent."