



Gas-Powered, Hydraulic-Controlled Feed Cart

"When I went looking for a commercial feed cart, I found there was nothing on the market that incorporated all the features I wanted," says Bill Jongejan who built his own gas-powered, hydraulically controlled cart.

"It weighs ingredients coming in and feed going out, mixes thoroughly, discharges to the left or right, and maneuvers easily through narrow alleys."

The Goderich, Ontario, farmer uses the machine twice a day to mix and deliver high moisture corn to 400 finishing pigs.

The hydrostatic drive unit came from a Case riding mower. Jongejan mounted a 2-cyl. 16 hp Briggs and Stratton engine vertically on the frame to direct drive a 15 gpm hydraulic pump. An open center (3/4-in. flow-through) hydraulic system powers the steering system. Four additional orbit motors power the propulsion, mixing and unloading systems, which are all controlled by levers on the operator's platform.

Mixing is done with a #55 double conveyor chain with 30-in. slats which runs through the inside of the mixing tank in a continuous rotation. As it moves up the sloped side of the tank, it tumbles and mixes the 800 lbs. of feed required for one feeding. Mixing time is five minutes.

The discharge system consists of a 4-in. dia. collection auger and 6-in. dia. vertical

auger with a 10-in. dia. impeller on top. The discharge chute swings to either side. Unloading rate is about 4 1/2 lbs. per second so feeding time for 400 hogs in 25 pens is about 10 minutes.

The mixing unit mounts on load cells which are connected to a Butler Oswalt scale so the operator can weigh ingredients as they're added and unload prescribed amounts to each pen. It turns on a dime, thanks to a 36-in. wheelbase and two 8-in. dia. steering wheels. Two 4-in. dia. caster wheels on each side of the rear help stabilize the unit and carry the load. Two guide wheels mounted on either side of the front of the machine help guide the operator along curbs of the pens. The operator stands on a platform which flips up and out of the way when not in use.

The compact unit measures 60-in. long by 60-in. high and is 33 in. wide. A 12-volt battery provides power for the electric ignition and electronic weigh scale.

"I've been using the feed cart for about a year now with no problems," says Jongejan. "It's been very reliable and I wouldn't change a thing."

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$4,000 (Canadian), plus another \$4,000 for the electronic weigh scale.

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Hand-Cranked Cleanout For Grain Trucks

There's no need to climb inside a truck box to clean it out when dumping grain if you make use of this cleanout auger idea.

Al Shade, Davis, S. Dak., joined up two sections of 6-in. auger - one right hand and one left hand - and mounted the auger across the back of the box. The shaft turns on bearings mounted in the sides of the box.

The shaft extends out one side of the box and is fitted with a hand crank.

Shade simply turns the crank a few times to clean out the remainder of the grain.

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Mark Newhall, Editor



Shop-Built Rotary Mower Saved Him \$2,000

"The biggest problem with commercial rotary mowers is their price, with some of the new ones selling for \$2,600 or more," says LeRoy Ream who built his own 6-ft. rotary mower out of odds and ends for about \$350.

The Sarasota, Fla., farmer built the 6-ft. deck, which is 8 in. deep, out of 7 ga. sheet steel. He mounted an Acme gearbox off an old rotary mower on 3/8-in. thick steel plate that mounts on lateral braces. Ream notes that the gearbox and blade units must be anchored securely for safety's sake.

Two 28-in. blades are fitted with knife blades off reel-type golf course mowers. They're welded to the top and bottom of the mower blades and extend 1 in. beyond the forward cutting edge. Blades are carefully weighed and balanced to prevent vibration, Ream notes.

He used the rear wheel off an old rotary mower on the deck and built an A-frame bracket to mount it on the 3-pt. hitch on his 50 hp Massey tractor. He uses a chain running from the top link back to the deck, instead of a metal brace used on most commercial units, to allow the mower to rise and



Acme gearbox mounts on plate that mounts on lateral braces.

fall with the contour of the ground.

"I use it to mow 50 to 100 acres a year, including eight to ten acres of horse pasture I mow every two weeks," says Ream. "In good conditions, I can mow two to three acres an hour running it at 540 rpm's at a height of 3 in. Because the deck is 8 in. deep, it doesn't plug as easily as some commercial units with shallower decks."

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