



“Convertible” flatbed trailer can be fitted with an 8 by 30-ft. cattle-hauling rack that’s winched into place on the trailer bed.

“Convertible” Trailer Hauls Cargo, Cattle

By C.F. Marley

Joe Jacobs, Carlinville, Ill., gets double duty out of this “convertible” flatbed trailer that can be fitted with a cattle-hauling rack.

When not in use for hauling cattle, the rack is simply stored on the ground out of the way. When needed to haul cattle, the 8 by 30-ft. rack is winched up onto the trailer bed. It will hold 18 to 20 head.

To make it easier to winch the rack into

place, a cylinder on the gooseneck hitch at the front of the Landoll trailer is used to lift the front end and force the back end of the trailer down to the ground.

Hooks on the cattle rack are chained to the flatbed to hold the rack in place.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Jacobs, Carlinville, Ill. 62626 (ph 217 854-2356).



Rack will hold 18 to 20 head. When not in use for hauling cattle, rack is simply stored on the ground out of the way.



With rack removed the flatbed trailer can be used to haul conventional loads.



The cow mats that line these stalls are filled with water. “There’s no place on them that isn’t comfortable,” Gail Foxworthy.

“Waterbeds” For Dairy Cows

“There’s no doubt about it – cows love waterbeds,” says Gail Foxworthy, Kent City, Mich., about the new “Georgia Duck” cow mats that are filled with water.

The waterbed mat consists of two layers of rubber that form bladders. They come in rolls 44, 46, and 48 in. wide, depending on cow size. To install them you lay the roll out, cut it off, and drill holes in a 6-in. wide fastener strip on each side of the stall. The strips bolt to the floor. Then you hook a garden hose up to each bladder to fill them with water.

“There’s no place on the waterbed that isn’t comfortable,” says Foxworthy. “The soft rubber cover and water flotation reduces injuries to cows and results in fewer bruised and cut knees, fewer damage hocks, and less injury to udders and teats. The cow floats on water, with the waterbed molding itself to the cow’s shape. The non-slip rubber upper surface keeps her from slipping off. If you want you can add either calcium chloride or recreational vehicle antifreeze to the water to keep it from freezing during winter.

“Waterbed mats offer superior all-around hygiene – the rounded shape and seamless construction allows water to drain and eliminates any dimples or dips that could hold urine or dung. Also, it’s a closed system so

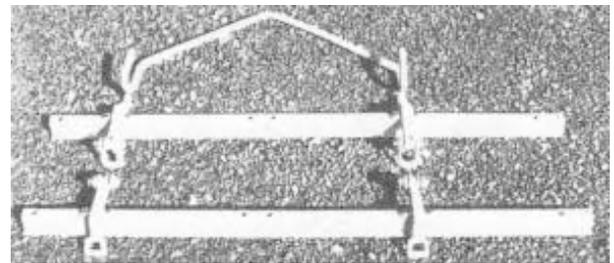
bacteria can’t grow inside the mattress. You can clean the waterbed with any high pressure washer. A pressure gauge or height gauge can be used to determine the correct inflation.”

According to Foxworthy, waterbed cow mats have been used in Europe for about four years where tests show they can increase milk production by up to 30 percent. “They’re finishing a trial in Europe now that anticipates one more gestation period during the life of the cow. That means more profit.”

Foxworthy will exhibit the waterbeds at the upcoming World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. The waterbeds have an expected life of 15 to 20 years and are guaranteed for 10 years. They sell for \$182 apiece plus S&H.

Foxworthy .also sells new “Poly Pillows” that can be fastened onto the floor in front of the bladder. The pillow keeps the cow back in the stall so she doesn’t lose lunge space forward and also keeps manure off the waterbed. The pillows sell for about \$12 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Foxworthy Supply, 4650 20 Mile Road, Kent City, Mich. 49330 (ph 800 632-1423 or 616 675-7584; fax 7601).



Stretcher uses two 50-in. bars that clamp together, one on each side of fence.

Stretching Tool Clamps Onto Woven Wire Fence

Fence-stretching has never been easier, thanks to this new one-of-a-kind tool that’s suitable for virtually any size woven wire and hooks up and unhooks in seconds.

Stewart Fence Co.’s “Fence Clamp Stretcher” consists of two 50-in. bars made of mild tool steel that clamp together, one on either side of the fence. An A-shaped puller is then chained to a pickup, tractor or come-along to stretch the fence.

To use, you first install a corner post, roll out the wire and then clamp stretcher to wire. The more you pull, the tighter the tool clamps the wire to ensure against slipping.

“I’ve used a Cat D4 to pull up to 1,000 ft. of wire and it’s never slipped nor damaged the tool or wire in any way,” says Spence Stewart, inventor. “It sure beats using a couple of 2 by 4’s bolted together.”

Suitable for any size woven wire from 32 to 49 in. Can be factory-adapted for game fence wire too.



An A-shaped puller is chained to a pickup, tractor or come-along to stretch the fence.

Sells for \$95 plus S&H (about \$15 in U.S.). Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stewart Fence Co., P.O. Box 747, Scappoose, Ore. 97056 (ph 503 543-5871; fax 5872).

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