

“Lift-Out” Grain Feeder

Steve Speegle couldn't justify the cost of a new grain feeder, so he built a plywood insert for his 16-ft. long hay feeder that converts it into a grain feeder with a removeable top.

“I needed a grain feeder to fatten up some calves,” says the Kingfisher, Okla. cow-calf operator. “Whenever I want to convert back to a hay feeder I just use a front-end loader to lift the entire plywood insert out.”

To make the insert he built an angle iron frame that he bolted sections of 1/4-in. thick plywood to line the sides and both ends of the hay feeder. The insert has openings at

the bottom for feed to drop out. He also used plywood to build the cover, which is nailed to a 2 by 6 frame. I-hooks are bolted onto each end of the top so it can be lifted off.

“It works good and cost less than \$100,” says Speegle. “To fill the insert I just back up a truck and auger the grain in. The top extends about 2 ft. out on each side to keep rain and snow off the feed.”

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Plywood insert lets Steve Speegle feed grain out of a 16-ft. long hay feeder.

ATV Tows Half-Acre Sprinkler And Hose

Pete Haugland irrigates his fields with home-built mid-size irrigation guns, towing them into position with his four-wheeler. He says his ATV can pull a gun and 250 ft. of hose without shutting down or draining the system.

“I use a rope to tow the system so I don't get wet and the ATV isn't on wet ground,” says Haugland. “It's easy to pull, and I've never ripped a hose apart.”

Haugland built his first mid-size guns for himself. When neighbors saw how well they worked, he began building them to sell.

“Each one covers a 150 to 180-ft. circle depending on water pressure,” he says.

Haugland has been using brass 3/8-in.

Nelson nozzles for the guns. On future units, he plans to switch to an Australian brand that will shoot 10 to 15 ft. farther.

“With a pressurized water system, these guns would easily make a 200-ft. circle,” says Haugland. “On my gravity fed water, I use a 5 hp pump to feed two sprinklers.”

He centers the guns on back of the three-sided carts, which are fabricated from 5-ft. lengths of 3-in. square tubing. The lead wheel is mounted on a leg made from 1 1/2-in. steel. It swivels for easy turning. To mount the rear wheels, Haugland uses simple pipe in pipe bushings. One pipe is welded to a steel plate drilled to match three lug bolt holes on

the wheel. A slightly smaller pipe is welded to legs that drop down from the rear corners of the cart.

“I cover the smaller pipe with grease before sliding the larger pipe over it,” explains Haugland. “A bolt through the plate and the leg holds the pipes together. I don't pull a gun more than about a mile a year, so the single application of grease is all I've needed.”

He keeps prices down by using second hand wheels and free tires. Haugland sells the irrigation guns with 300 ft. of 2-in. rubber and nylon hose for \$1,200.

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Pete Haugland uses his ATV to pull this home-built irrigation gun, along with 250 ft. of hose. There's no need to shut down or drain the system between mows.

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Tony Peeters found a good way to make use of the rocks in his fields – he uses them to make fence corner posts.

Rock Cages Make Solid Corner Posts

Using rocks for fence corner posts is an old idea that makes sense to a Menahga, Minn., dairy farm family. Over the past 15 years, they have built 32 rock cages, 5 ft. in diameter and 8 ft. tall.

“Wooden corner fence posts never seemed permanent enough,” says Tony Peeters. “We have to pick the rocks anyway, so it's a good way to make use of them.”

He had old corncribs that were no longer being used on the farm. He uses wire panels from them to make the rock cages. He places each cage on level ground, slips metal posts inside to wire the fence to, and fills them using rocks with a loader bucket. Peeters, his wife, Terry, and their daughter and five sons pick and load the rocks into the bucket.

Because of the size, there isn't any need to reinforce the cage with concrete or steel.

“I wanted to make them big enough so there's no way they're going to move,” Peeters says. On some, he attached plow lathes to add hinges and hang heavy gates. Holsteins can rub on them all they want, and the cages won't budge.

Peeters figures another 15 rock cages will finish off the fenced areas of his 500-acre farm. The corncrib wire has been holding



He uses wire panels from old corn cribs to make the cages, wiring the panels to metal posts.

up well, and he picks up old corncribs from neighbors and at sales.

“We're really happy with them,” Peeters says. “We even put some on low ground.”

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Blades are made out of 36-in. dia. oil field pipe. “They're built heavy enough that you can use them like a dozer blade, on your 3-pt. hitch,” says inventor Brandon Janssen.

“Built To Last” 3-Pt. Blade

Brandon Janssen made his first 3-pt. blade out of oil well pipe when he was 15 years old. A neighbor is still using it 27 years later, and Janssen is still building them as heavy as he can make them with full hydraulic control. He did go from a single cylinder to full hydraulic angle and offset control with double cylinders for on-the-go control. However, he kept the same built-to-last fabrication technique he used in that first blade.

“My dad had a blade made for him, but it was built too light and didn't work well,” recalls Janssen. “I was learning to weld, so I cut one out of 36-in. dia. oil field tubing. That first one doesn't look as good as the ones I make now, but it still works fine.”

Janssen still makes blades out of 3/8 or 1/2-in., 36-in. dia. oil field pipe. The blades are higher than most, running 29 in. on the larger models. On 140 hp and above rated blades, the main frame is made out of 3/8-in. thick, 10-in. dia. pipe. Blade width goes up with horsepower rating. The 140 and above is 10 ft. wide, while the 150 and above is 12 ft. The rear turret bushing is 8-in. dia., 3/4-in. steel. All cylinder and 3-pt. mounts are 3/4-in., QT-100 steel (tempered, carbon steel plate). The front hinge is 6-in. dia., 1/2-in. wall pipe. Cylinders on these large blades have 5-in. bores.

“I make them heavy enough that you can use them like a dozer blade, but on your 3-pt.,” says Janssen. “That way, if you change tractors, they will still fit. They're a cost effective alternative to a front mount blade.”

Janssen's smallest blade is a Category 1, 6-ft. wide blade for 25 to 45 hp tractors. It has 8-in. by 2 1/2-in. cylinders and a 20-in.



Blades are equipped with full hydraulic angle and offset control with double cylinders for on-the-go control.

blade. Mounts are made with 3/8-in. QT-100 plate. The frame is made with pipe ranging from 2 3/8 in. to 4 1/2 in.

“Only the Category 1 blade is thinner than 3/8-in.,” says Janssen. “The blades built for 150 hp and bigger tractors use 1/2-in. steel. All blades have replaceable cutting edges, and even the Category 1 blade is construction-duty rated.”

Prices on these rugged blades range from \$3,500 for the Category 1 blade to about \$7,000 for the 10-ft. Category 2 blade. All prices are in Canadian dollars. Hydraulic tilt is also available, but at an added cost.

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