

Made It Myself

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Round Calf Hutches Make Perfect Round Bale Feeders

Round calf hutches make ideal bale feeders for small calves, according to Al Beriswill.

"We use a 6-ft. dia. hutch over a 5 1/2-ft. dia. bale to feed calves up to 400 lbs.," says the Valley City, Ohio, farmer. "The mini hutch is comparable in price - \$175 in our area - to a bale feeder for larger animals but has a lot of advantages over them."

The plastic hutch protects the bale and also makes access to bales easy for calves.

"It's perfect for small calves," he says.

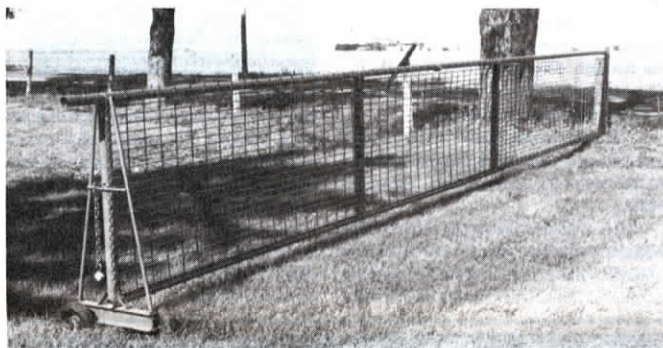
"It takes them a while, but they eat the whole bale. They'll push it around to get the hay, but they can't get in because we put two bars over the openings."

A larger size hutch is available for \$235, Beriswill notes, adding that it might be suit-



able for larger calves.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Al Beriswill, 2200 Station Rd., Valley City, Ohio 44280 (ph 216 483-3871).



Triple Wide Reinforced Gate

Tim Puzey, Sidell, Ill., needed a wide gate that would let him pass through with wide equipment. The problem with most designs he saw was that they were either too heavy or would bend or twist after having been used awhile.

The 25-ft. "triple wide" gate he came up with is heavy but it rolls on a pair of wheels at the outer end that mount on a short length of I-beam. The I-beam also

supports an A-frame reinforcement brace made out of steel tubing that keeps the gate from twisting. The main frame of the gate is made out of steel tubing covered with heavy wire panels.

The gate is easy to open, easy to close, and keeps its original shape," says Puzey.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Puzey, 7145 N 680 E Road, Sidell, Ill. 61876.

Plywood Shelled Corn Feeder

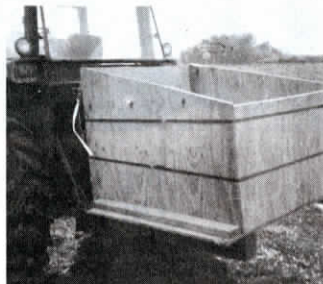
A sheet and a half of plywood is all it took for Harold Gibbs, Bernard, Iowa, to build a 30-bu. shelled corn feeder for his stock cows. It mounts on a 3-pt. round bale carrier behind his tractor.

The 4-ft. sq., 2 1/2-ft. high box has a 4-in. wide, 6-in. high opening in front that's covered by a steel plate attached to a steel rod that Gibbs can reach from the tractor cab. The box is nailed onto a pair of 4 by 6 skids that keep it off the ground.

The forward slope of the bale carrier gives the box enough slope to feed the corn out by gravity. It works better than using a gravity wagon because I can shut off the flow of corn at any time right from the cab," says Gibbs.

He wrapped steel bands around the sides to keep them from spreading. He also nailed short 2 by 4's into the front corners for reinforcement.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold E. Gibbs, Coon Hollow Ranch, 7270 Bellview Cascade Road, Bernard, Iowa 520332 (ph 319 879-3271).



Triple-Up Beet Cart Holds 15 Tons

If you raise beets, you'll be interested in this triple-up beet cart Fred Gibbs built to speed up his harvest.

"With three discharge elevators, we can unload 15 tons of beets in less than 2 minutes and have the truck back on its way to the pile," says the Greeley, Colo., grower. "This is the only triple discharge cart I've ever seen."

Gibbs made the cart out of three Hesston 565 beet carts that he welded together front to back and reinforced with steel off of other carts. He removed the set of wheels on the front cart so he could maneuver in the field. "You can turn at the end of the field very nicely," he says.

The completed cart has three separate compartments that hold 5 tons of beets apiece. That can be a big plus as compared to having one big compartment on commercial 15- to 20-ton carts, Gibbs says.

"If a chain breaks on the discharge of one of those big carts, there you sit with an awful lot of beets to throw off by hand," he says. "This way, if a chain breaks, you've still got two discharges operating and only a third of the beets to unload manually."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Gibbs, 1001 "O" St., Greeley, Colo. 80631 (ph 303 356-7090).



Paddle "Drill Fill" Mounts On Front Of Tractor

The search for a way to handle soybeans more gently led farmer and seed grower Harold Ponder, Hammond, Ill., to come up with this tractor-mounted paddle conveyor for loading beans into his planter.

The 16-ft. conveyor he used was originally designed to mount on back of truck boxes. Ponder mounted it on front of the tractor using an adjustable weed wiper frame mounted on his Farmall "M". The frame adjusts up and down hydraulically. The conveyor and a hopper attach to the front of the frame. An upright support post, made out of a couple pieces of channel iron, supports the conveyor via steel cable that runs to a hand-cranked winch mounted on the side of the conveyor. The cable and winch are used to adjust the angle of the conveyor.

The conveyor moves up to 8 bu. of seed a minute. Ponder loads beans into it from 2,000-lb. capacity bulk bags.

The conveyor consists of a rubber belt with 6 by 2-in. PVC paddles spaced 9 in. apart on the belt, which is powered by variable speed hydraulic motor.

Once mounted, the conveyor is raised and lowered by the same hydraulic cylinder that was originally used to raise and lower the weed wiper.

Ponder says putting the conveyor on the tractor gives him great maneuverability for handling seed when filling planters and it also provided the power needed to run the conveyor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Ponder, Hammond, Ill. 61929 (ph 217 262-3011).