



A feeder hopper mounts on each loader arm on Case-IH 7110 Magnum tractor. Each hopper holds about 400 lbs. of pellets.

Loader-Mounted Hoppers Cut Cattle Feeding Time

By Mick Lane, Contributing Editor

Rancher John Haldemann solved the problem of feeding supplemental protein pellets to cattle on snowy pastures by mounting a couple of feed hoppers on the arms of his front-end loader.

The Chinook, Mont. rancher feeds hay with a Hesston bale mover pulled by a Case-IH 7110 Magnum. He keeps a front-end loader on the tractor to scrape snow so he can feed on bare ground.

"We always had to make a second trip to feed the protein cake," he says. "But not anymore."

Haldemann figured he could just about cut his cattle feeding chores in half if he had a way to feed range pellets with the same rig.

Then he looked at the front-end loader and decided there was room there to haul the pellets if he just had a way to distribute them.

He designed a hopper to mount on each loader arm, between the front of the tractor and the loader bucket. Part of the design includes an auger at the bottom that directs the pellets toward the center of the tractor.

Once he had the general design worked out, he took it to a local welding shop. "They made brackets to mount on the arms that let us remove the hoppers by taking out just three pins," he says.

Each hopper holds about 400 lbs. of pellets. The distribution augers both direct feed toward the center of the tractor and both operate at once, so it keeps the weight evenly distributed on the loader arms. If there's snow on the pasture, Haldemann puts the bucket

down and scrapes it out of the way while running the pellets out on the ground for the cattle.

The 5-in. distribution auger is powered by electric motors, which Haldemann can control from the tractor cab. He says it's easy to feed the right amount of supplement, since he can measure the amount of feed distributed in a minute and then calculate the amount of time he needs to run the augers to put out the amount of feed he needs.

Another part of his system is an overhead storage bin with an unload spout that swivels side to side. "I can drive the loader under the storage bin and fill both hoppers without having to move the tractor," he says. Pellets go over a screen to separate out the fines before whole pellets go into the feeder hoppers. "We feed the fines to cattle in feed bunks, so they're not wasted by feeding on the ground," he explains.

Haldemann says he makes a separate pass in the pasture to feed the pellets, rather than trying to feed them while he's feeding hay. "But I don't have to make a second trip to the field, or feed the pellets by hand," he says. He figures this cuts the time needed to feed cattle by close to 50 percent.

Haldemann says one of the toughest parts of the job was figuring out how to make an auger with reverse flighting so both sides feed pellets at the same speed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Haldemann, HCR 70, Box 20, Chinook, Mont. 59523 (ph 406 357-2078).



Distribution augers powered by electric motors direct feed toward center of tractor.



Kit comes with a 58-in. "mid-mount" deck powered by a 16 hp gas engine on back.

Kit Turns ATV Into "Riding Mower"

One of the showstoppers at the recent Western Canada Farm Progress Show was this "mid-mount" mower deck for ATV's.

Introduced by Quadivator of Swan River, Manitoba, the 58-in. wide, rear-discharge deck is equipped with five offset blades. The deck is powered by a separate 16 hp, electric start gas engine that mounts on a metal platform behind the ATV. To attach the deck you back the ATV up and over the deck, then drop a pin through a clevis on the rear bracket and then cable-lock both sides of the deck to the ATV foot bars. To disconnect the mower all you do is pull the pin, unhook the cables, and drive away.

The deck is supported by a pair of 5-in. castor wheels on front. To adjust deck height, you simply change the position of a pin on these wheels. Eight anti-scalping wheels placed at the leading and rear edges of the deck prevent scalping on rutted or very uneven lawns. A control console mounts directly behind the operator.

"It's a heavy duty mower that takes only seconds to put on and off. And it's fully universal, so you can use it on virtually any 4-wheeler ATV without needing special mounting brackets," says Darin Hubscher. "Hitches on ATV's are mounted farther ahead on some models than they are on other models. To adjust for that there are a series of holes in the bar just behind the clevis. All you do is change the position of the pin.

"Deflectors under the deck result in an even distribution of grass behind the deck.



Engine platform connects to deck by bar that fastens to ATV.

"There is a wheel under the platform that supports the engine, but it doesn't ride on the ground while you're mowing. It's there simply to help you move the entire assembly by hand after it's removed from the ATV.

"The unit can be transported by simply placing it in back of a pickup. We plan to add a lever assembly that will mount on the ATV's front rack, with a pair of cables going down to the front part of the deck. The operator will then be able to lift the deck completely off the ground for high speed transport."

Sells for under \$3,000 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quadivator, Inc., Box 218, Swan River, Manitoba, Canada R0L 1Z0 (ph 204 734-5868; fax 204 734-5865; E-mail: mailbox@quadivator.com; Website: www.quadivator.com).



Deck is supported by a pair of 5-in. high rubber castor wheels on front. Eight anti-scalping wheels on back of deck prevent scalping on uneven terrain.