

Dump Trailer Made From Underground Storage Tank

Don Hampton, Huron, South Dakota, is one of those people who can look at junk and see something usable.

So when he needed a good dump trailer, it didn't take much time for him to figure out how to make one.

"We had the rear end of an old farm truck that originally had a dump box on it. The hydraulic hoist still worked," his son Darrel recalls. "All it needed was a bed."

The Hamptons made their own out of a salvaged 10,000-gal. underground gas storage tank. Made of 1/4-in. thick steel, the tank was 9 ft. in diameter and 12 ft. long.

They made a single axle trailer from the truck rear end by pulling the channel iron frame members together and adding a hitch. To let the rear wheels turn freely and independently, they pulled the third member from the truck differential and sealed it. The dual wheels and tires from the old truck were still good, so they left them in place.

Then they cut the tank in half, leaving two troughs that were 4 1/2 ft. deep at the center. One half was mounted on the truck frame where the old box had attached. Then they

made a swinging, self-sealing tailgate by cutting out the back end of the tank and reattaching it on a hinge. Darrel explains that the tailgate is designed and weighted so it stays shut until you raise the bed. Then the load pushes it open, but as soon as the bed drops, the tailgate shuts and stays shut without a latch.

To operate the old hydraulic hoist, they attached a power take off shaft from the pump to the tractor, with a manual control accessible from the tractor seat to direct oil flow to the cylinder. "To lower the bed, you just redirect the oil flow away from the cylinder and the weight forces the cylinder down again," Hampton says.

The trailer will hold more than 4 yds. of gravel, which, he says, is a good load for their old IH 450 tractor.

"The tank was free just for hauling it away. The rest was junk or parts we already had, so total cost was less than \$400," Hampton tells.

Since the first one worked so well, and they had two pieces of the tank, they found another truck rear end and made a second trailer, which is now for sale.



Don and Darrel Hampton used a 10,000-gal. underground gas storage tank and an old truck rear end to make this heavy-duty dump trailer.

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Automatic Feeder Helps Cattleman Expand Herd

Leigh Babcock found the answer to his cattle feeding problems when he visited a hog barn equipped with an automatic feeding system.

"I was feeding 250 calves and wanted to increase the herd size. I was carrying up to 120 5-gal. pails of chopped feed every day to my cattle, which was getting old. When I saw the automatic hog feeding system, I was intimidated at first by all the electrical switches on the feed mill. Then I decided it was easier to figure out how to operate the switches than to carry pails of feed all day."

Leigh's friend Jonny Neilson had recently arrived in Canada from Denmark and was familiar with the automatic systems. The two men designed a setup that automatically delivers a balanced ration from Babcock's storage bins to his feed troughs.

Feed is moved through 190 ft. of 3-in. dia. flexible auger to 40 drop spouts along the length of the feed trough. The spouts are spaced 30 in. apart, allowing four or five animals to feed from each spout.

He built a steel structure to support the spouts and flexible auger. The height of each drop spout can be adjusted to control the amount of grain per drop.

Leigh mixes his own feed rations, depending on the needs of the cattle. Oats, barley, canola meal and concentrate are augered from storage bins through an adjustable proportioner unit that mounts above a roller mill. The proportioner unit determines the amount of each ingredient used in the total ration. The 3-in. dia. flexible auger runs from the roller mill into one of two surge bins (Leigh needs two surge bins because he feeds different rations to heifers and steers). Canola meal and concentrates bypass the roller mill and go straight into the auger and into one of the surge bins.

After the mill was in place, Leigh set the dials to provide for coarseness of the crush on the grain. He also set the scale to produce the weight of feed required.

"The complete unit, with bins, cost about



Feed is moved through 190 ft. of 3-in. dia. flexible auger to 40 drop spouts along the length of Babcock's feed trough. Four or five animals can feed from each spout.

\$45,000 to set it up," says Leigh. "It was a justifiable cost because it let me expand the herd without having to hire additional help. In this area, we're competing against the oil fields for help. There's not enough work here on my farm to hire a full-time worker, and it's impossible to get any part-time help."

"I now have about 600 calves. I wouldn't

have been able to increase my herd that much if I didn't have this system," says Babcock, noting that there are a number of hog and poultry feeders that would get the job done.

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Mounting Step For Farmall Cub And Lo-Boy Tractors

"We recently began offering authentic reproduction mounting steps for all IH Farmall Cub and Cub Lo-Boy tractors. This heavy-duty step makes it a lot easier to get on and off the tractor," says Roy Edwards, East Ridge, Tenn.

The diamond tread step measures 3 in. wide by 6 in. long. It's equipped with a pair of hooks that go over two collars on the tractor's brake pedal mounting pad, which is under the operator platform. The step is located about 2 in. below and in front of the platform.

"It's a surprisingly simple design that solves a big problem," says Edwards. "Most people try to mount Cub tractors from the side on front, which is difficult because you have to take a very high step to reach the operator's platform. You can step on the drawbar and try to climb onto the seat from the back side of the tractor, but that's also difficult for some people."

"The step I make is an exact reproduction

of one that IH made a few years after they introduced the tractor in 1947. That step was never made in large numbers and many people never knew it even existed. It has become a collector's item and is very hard to find. I spent 12 years working for an IH dealer, eight of them in the parts department, yet even I had never heard about this step. In 1994 I bought out an IH dealership that had gone out of business and found the step in their supply of stock parts. I sold the step at an antique tractor show and could have sold a lot more if I'd had them.

"I did some research and discovered that the step was listed in the company's parts catalogs beginning in the mid 1950's. However, it was available only through the parts department and not many dealers stocked them."

According to Edwards, IH made Cub tractors up until 1979 and never changed the design of the operator's platform. As a result,



Diamond tread step measures 4 in. wide by 6 in. long. Extended drop model goes about 4 in. lower than standard one.

his step will fit any model.

"I also offer a custom-made step with an extended drop that's located about 4 in. lower than the standard one. It's especially helpful for wives and older people," says Edwards.

The step comes primed but not painted.



It sells for \$42 plus S&H. The extended drop model sells for \$55 plus S&H.

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