

Bale Feeder "Sling" Saves Hay

A simple sling made out of chain saves hay for Ontario cattle feeder Mike Chell, who first saw the idea on a neighbor's farm.

Chell fitted the sling to a standard circular commercial bale feeder he already owned. Lengths of chain dangle from two angle iron cross bars that mount on opposite sides of the feeder. Notches are cut in the ends of the bars to fit over the top edge of the bale feeder. J-clamps hold the bars in place.

Four pieces of chain run across the

feeder, and one runs across the four pieces of chain to keep them from tangling.

The bale rests on top of the chains, which hold it a couple feet off the ground. Since most hay waste happens when animals pull a mouthful off the bale, the elevated arrangement lets hay fall inside the feeder, rather than outside of it.

In addition to the sling, Chell added a plywood floor to the feeder so loose hay doesn't fall directly onto the ground.

(Reprinted courtesy Ontario Farmer)

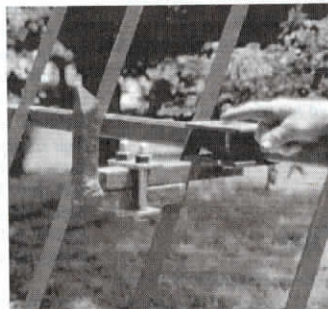


"Bale Hook" Round Bale Feeder

Henry Pirok, Highland, Ill., got tired of watching his cattle waste hay with his conventional round bale feeders. He solved the problem by building his own "bale hook" feeder that uses steel hooks to keep the bale up off the floor.

"Cattle reach up to eat the loose hay at the bottom of the bale instead of having to pull it out from the sides. It's a lot easier to eat and there's far less waste," says Pirok.

The 7-ft. sq. feeder holds one bale and is built from 1 1/2 and 2-in. sq. steel tubing. It has slanted sides all the way around, with a gate on one side. The wooden floor - about 1 ft. off the ground - is surrounded by 8-in. high boards that keep hay from sliding out. Three L-shaped steel hooks are clamped onto the feeder about half



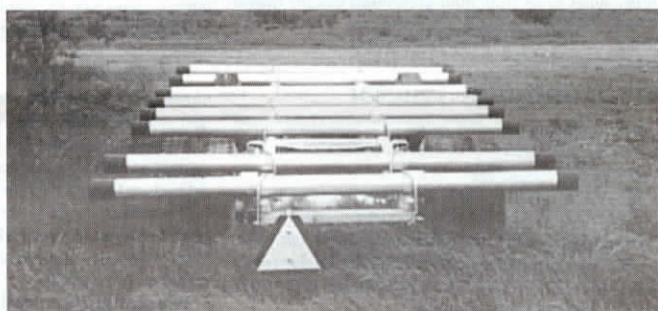
way up - two on one side and the other one on the opposite side. Each hook extends inward about 1 ft. and up 6 about in. Pirok uses a front-end loader to drop the bale into the feeder. The hooks catch the bale and

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Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmer's workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)

Mark Newhall, Editor



Simple Round Bale Trailer

Here's an uncomplicated design for a round bale hauler that works well for Woodstock, Minn., farmer Dan Peschon.

"I bought an old bus and stripped it down to the frame. I added steering and a hitch to the front axle. Large U-bolts hold down 8 to 9 ft. long, 4 1/2-in. dia. pieces of oil well pipe that lay across the frame. The

U-bolts make it easy to move pipes to haul different size bales.

"The trailer holds 8 round bales on bottom and 3 on top. Total cost including paint was under \$200."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Peschon, Rt. 1 Box 157, Woodstock, Minn. 56186.

keep the bottom off the floor. As cattle reach through the slanted sides they're forced to reach up to eat the bale. Eventually, the center of the bale collapses inward onto the floor.

"Cattle really like eating the loose hay and eat more of it," says Pirok. "I weighed the amount of hay my cattle were eating for a month before and a month after I started using my feeder and found that they ate 5 lbs. more per day with the feeder. As soon as cattle get their belly full they walk away from the feeder. They spend only about one third as much time at the feeder as before. My feeder holds a 1,600 to 2,000-lb. bale but I built a smaller one for my son-in-law that handles 1,000-lb. bales. My feeder is small enough that 450-lb. calves can reach the middle with no problems, yet big enough

to handle a full-size bale. One feeder can handle 45 to 60 head of cattle.

"I use a rake to clean out trash and weeds on the floor which has removable boards that can be turned over if they get dirty. The gate allows a forklift or skid steer loader to load the feeder and also comes in handy for raking out trash. I mounted two hooks on one side of the feeder to keep the bale level so that I can easily pull the spear out on my front-end loader. I also use the loader to move the feeder. I mounted skids on another model that I use in my pasture so that I can easily move it around."

Sells for \$949.

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