



When Eric Blanford built a 40 by 80-ft. building for his cows, he installed a 30-ft. long, 6 1/2-ft. wide bunk down center of building. He fills it by pushing bales into the open end.

Big Feeder Saves Time & Hay

Eric Blanford saves hay and time with the feeder he built for his Black Angus cattle. He came up with the design when he built a 40 by 80-ft. building for his 30 cows, which includes a manure storage area in the back.

"I had an easy dump trailer that dumps hay off the side and wanted to come up with a design to put hay in a manger. I drew up my own plans," the Slaughter, Ky., farmer explains. He didn't want the hassle of moving bale rings around when he needed to scrape manure. Instead he built a 30-ft. long 6 1/2-ft. wide bunk down the center of the building that allows him to fill it with bales from the open side of the shed.

"There's very little hay waste because it's all self-contained," Blanford says.

He and his brother used 2-in and 1 1/4-in. square tubing and MIG welded the side sections of the feeders in place. Instead of permanently bolting the feeder to the floor, he anchored it into 6-in. PVC sleeves that he set into the floor.

He welded the side walls to horizontal 2-in. tubing every 8 ft. with vertical legs for support in the middle. Finally, he welded two old 30-ft. oil pipes on top, 18-in. off the floor.

The feeder holds six 1,000 to 1,200-lb. bales. Blanford simply drives up to the feeder and pushes them in, one at a time. He removes the twine after he sets the bales on the rack.

The width allows cattle to reach all the hay. "The advantage is the cows can even reach the hay that falls on the concrete floor," explains Blanford, who also works full-time as a coal mine engineer.



Bunk holds six 1,000 to 1,200-lb. bales.

He also saves time by not having to run the cows out of the barn to bring in hay.

He appreciates the feeder most, however, when it comes time to clean.

"I can scrape manure off the floor and I don't have to move rings around," he says. "I just make a couple of bucket runs on both sides and the barn is clean."

Blanford added a horizontal pipe at the back end of the feeder large enough to slip in an axle from an old mobile home that Blanford split in two. If he ever needs to move the feeder he can jack up the back, slip in the axles, bolt them in place and pull the whole thing out with a tractor. Blanford has used his feeder since 2005, without any problems. He recommends using sturdy materials. He spent about \$1,000 on the 3/16-in. wall tubing and other materials he used.

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One-Piece Steel Doors Are Custom-Built

Doug Loder's overhead doors are generally installed on airport hangars, but the Marquette, Kansas, entrepreneur is finding strong demand for them in agricultural buildings. His Condor Hangar Systems use 110-volts to run a 1/2 hp motor to open and close the one-piece door anchored to a counterweight by stainless steel cables, each capable of lifting more than twice the door's weight.

"That's the main reason I believe mine is better," Loder says. "If the drive system stops, it just stops. The counterweight holds the door in place. From a safety standpoint it's safer than a bi-fold door that is held up by a winch, which can fail." If the power is out, Loder's door can be opened with a chain.

Loder had experience building hangars and installing doors for a company and saw firsthand what worked and what didn't. He started manufacturing his system in his farm shop in 1986.

Loder and his son build the frames out of steel tubing, and the weight tower is made of I-beam and channel iron. Doors are custom-finished with insulation (to suit the region) and covered with materials that match the building.

"This system has very few wear points," Loder says. "It has drive chain and sprockets, cables and pulleys. The door is designed for all weather operation. There are no exposed tracks to freeze the door shut."

The single door design only requires 6 to 14-in. of headspace compared to 36 to 48-in. on a bi-fold door. With about half of the door inside in the open position it's also less susceptible to strong winds.

Loder custom-builds the door in sizes from 20 to 75-ft. wide. Hangars typically require a 60 by 18-ft. door. Agriculture shops usually only require a 15-ft. clearance. One of Loder's doors served two purposes - to house

Cyclonic Vacuum Works With Shop Vac

The patented "Dust Deputy" turns any shop vac into a cyclonic vacuum. With an add-on bucket and simple attachment, pet hair, dirt and chips notorious for clogging the vacuum's filter never make it to the vacuum.

"Because of the shape, it spins particles and dust, and gravity drops about 99 percent into the bucket beneath," says Ken Nichols, designer at Oneida Air Systems, Inc. "You're not clogging your filter and you don't lose suction anymore. With the addition of the Dust Deputy, the shop vacuum maintains peak vacuum performance even with continuous collection of fine dust over extended periods of time."

A metal version of the Dust Deputy is popular with commercial cleaners and wood-working shops. Oneida Air Systems introduced the less expensive plastic version of Dust Deputy earlier this year. The vacuum hose goes into the top of the cylinder, which is mounted on a 5-gal. bucket with a lid. Another section of hose attaches to the side.

The bucket is also easier to empty than the shop vac, Nichols adds.

The attachment works for any cleanup of dry materials — even as part of central vac systems. Customers include people who work with wood, ceramics or drywall.

The Dust Deputy comes in two versions. The DIY version comes with just the cyclone tube for \$59. The \$99 Deputy Kit has two buckets and a lid. One of the buckets mounts to the vacuum to hold the other bucket.



"Dust Deputy" turns any shop vac into a cyclonic vacuum. Add-on bucket and attachment keeps pet hair, etc., from clogging vacuum's filter.

Made in the U.S., the Dust Deputy can be purchased through Oneida's website, which includes a video of how it works. The company also sells HEPA filter systems.

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How To Kill Rodents With Oatmeal

You can eliminate ground squirrels and rodents without harmful poisons by using a bait of one part plaster of paris to three parts raw oatmeal and placing about a cup at a time in the upright tube of this simple Rodent Bait Module built out of PVC pipe. The mixture constipates and kills squirrels and other rodents, but has no harmful effect on predators that may eat the dead animals. The traps have been used for years by wildlife biologists in California and other areas. Some designs use an upside down T made out of 4-in. PVC. This design includes a 30-degree angle fitting to keep the bait inside and to protect non-target species. The trap can be buried in the ground (or in feed lots or feed storage areas for other rodents) with only the openings exposed. Caps can be screwed on the ends when rain is expected to protect the bait from getting wet.



Bait made from raw oatmeal and plaster of paris is placed in upright pvc tube.



Ron McCosh of Beverly, Kansas, stands next to the door he had installed in a building that houses a plane and a combine.

a combine and an airplane.

Most of Loder's customers are in the Kansas/Missouri area, because he prefers to install the doors himself. He'll work with customers in other U.S. locations, however, and has come up with kit directions for do-it-yourselfers.

Loder says his prices are competitive, and he offers a 5-year warranty. A farming neigh-

bor is building two shops, for example; the 36-ft. and 24-ft. doors installed will cost \$11,000, altogether.

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