

Gladtime Dairy Invests in Cattle Health with FarmTek Fodder System

The dry climate of Arizona had Bill Underwood and Scot Edwards of Gladtime Dairy searching for a way to provide 250 head of dairy cattle with fresh greens. Although the cattle had an abundance of dry feed, Underwood and Edwards were looking for something that did not require a large environmental footprint and was more nutritious for their cattle.

Underwood and Edwards found the solution in FarmTek's Grow-Tek GT80 NFT Channels and hydroponic accessories. They

customized their own hydroponic system, which allows them to produce affordable, fresh fodder from seed in eight days. Edwards states "What would normally require approximately 300 acres to grow, we are now able to do in 2,000 sq. ft."

Along with the smaller footprint, using their fodder system has been very beneficial for Gladtime Dairy in other ways. They noticed improvements in milk production and cattle health, as well as cost reductions. Edwards explains, "Before using this

customized system, the normal ration of dry feed cost us \$7.00 to \$10.00 per cow each day. Now, including labor, it only costs us \$0.32 per pound of seed, or \$3.82 per cow."

FarmTek offers the Fodder-Pro Feed System, which is a complete system for your fodder needs.

Customized options are also available. Call 1 800 327-6835 or visit www.FarmTek.com/ADBFS.

Reader Inquiry No. 26



Add-On Axle Pto Lets Semi Drive Farm Equipment

Low horsepower pto's have been available for trucks for decades, but Harry Wallace has figured out a relatively inexpensive way to add 250 hp pto's to semi tractors.

"I sell the axle ready to go," says the Galva, Ill., inventor of a modified power divider axle complete with parallel shaft gearbox and pressurized oil system.

"The secret for long life is a pressure-lube cooling system," Wallace says. "Semi tractors have huge radiators, which is great for running a pto — lots of cooling. You can idle a large semi engine down and change gears in the transmission and use a third less fuel than a tractor."

His truck is equipped with a vacuum switch so he can drive it where he needs to go, then flip that switch to disconnect traction drive when he wants to run the pto. He hits cruise control to set the speed he wants.

Wallace put the axle on one of his trucks to run a bagger machine. He and his son-in-law run a self-propelled forage harvester for their custom harvesting business. A lot of time was wasted arranging to get the tractor to run the bagger. Adding a pto to a truck makes the bagging operation



self-sufficient.

Detailed do-it-yourself plans for the drive axle are available on www.GizmoPlans.com.

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Reader Inquiry No. 27

This Houle liquid manure pump requires up to 250 hp. The truck easily powers the pump with a 5-speed pto maintaining 1,000 rpm pto speed. The engine can be geared to "scream" when maximum horsepower is needed.

