

Feed-Saving “Hay Manager”

“We’re feeding 100 beef cows two big round bales a day with absolutely no waste thanks to our homebuilt Hay Manager,” says Ted Lacey of Trent, S. Dak. Developed over the last 18 years on the farm, farmers and horse enthusiasts have bought them for 5 years from areas of the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Nebraska with no complaints. “Customers buy the feeders, we do not sell them. Kind of like the saying, it sells itself,” says Lacey.

“It was designed because the feeders on the market were poorly built,” Lacey says. “The hay would either spoil or be pulled outside the feeder Twenty percent or more of the hay was wasted and the feeders only last a short time.”

Lacey’s idea was to use the same round metal band configuration, but use stronger metal, 14 ga. steel rather than 20 ga. as found on competitive units. Another distinction is that The Hay Manager holds a bale entirely off the ground to prevent spoilage. Twelve to 18 3/4-in. steel rods hook to the top metal band making the unit infinitely adjustable in restricting the animals intake. “The bale is supported between the rods and doesn’t touch the ground as designed to manage the animal’s feed in-take,” Lacey says, “Thereby putting the waste in the cattle instead of on the ground. They eat the loose hay leaves that fall inside the ring and don’t pull it outside on to the ground.

“We built them strong because we’ve



Hay Manager feeders hold big bales off the ground so livestock don’t waste hay. They’re made with 14-ga. steel and the cone basket is adjustable. “We have 17 years experience building bale feeders. Our current model saves 10% more hay,” says Lacey. Call 605-428-5122 for more information.

got 100 head of cows and we know what animals can do to weak metal,” Lacey says. The Hay Manager for cattle weighs about 475 lbs. compared to competitive models that weigh 150 to 250 lbs. “I’ve used a couple of my Hay Managers for 16 years and they show use but not damage. We move them every day to let the cattle spread the manure in the fields.”

The Hay Manager design has been tested on horses and sheep and the customers come back in shock that their animals don’t waste any hay. A horse lady was so surprised after buying one in the summer that her complaint was, “I’m concerned

that my horses are going to starve when winter comes.”

“We’ve had a lot of experience with our own cattle using the Hay Manager and we’re confident we’ve got a product that reduces waste to less than 2 percent and can stand the abuse of livestock,” Lacey says. Prices range from \$815 to \$1600 FOB Trent, S. Dak. Patent Pending

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New Way To Drill Your Own Well

If you’ve checked the price of drilling a new well lately, you know you’re looking at an expense of thousands of dollars. That’s what prompted a pair of Texas inventors to come up with a new do-it-yourself method.

The heart of the system is an air-powered sander/polisher that can be picked up for about \$35. The Bursons removed the handle to fit the power tool inside a piece of pvc pipe. Then they drilled a hole in the back of the sander’s housing so air could exit.

With the right selection of “bits” and a compressor that’ll put out 16 cfm at 90 psi, they soon had a well drilling rig. Best of all, Burson says, it practically digs the well by itself. Here’s how it works:

A small hole is dug and water is added. Then the pipe with the sander and bit inside is inserted into the hole. As air passes up the pipe, it creates a vacuum that pulls in the water and soil to the surface through a hose. After filtering out the solids, the water is returned to the hole.

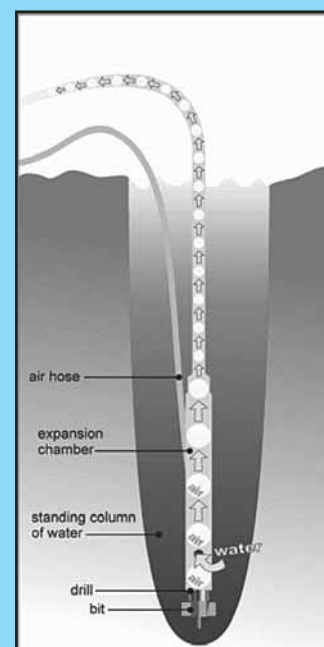
“The most revolutionary idea in the system was using the exhaust air coming out the hole in the sander’s housing to remove water and dirt from the hole,” says Burson. He reports using the system to dig wells as deep as 210 feet.

Kits ship with a bit to drill a hole for 4-in. casing, but bits for 6-in casing are available.

The time needed to drill a well depends on the type of soil and the depth needed to find water. In sandy areas of Florida, drilling a well can take as little as a day, while clay and rock can stretch drilling out to a week or more.

Well-Tek sells kits for \$539.95. Plans to build your own kit and an instructional DVD are available on their website for \$29.95 plus \$4.95 S&H. The website also features free videos of the system at work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Well-Tek, 10758 Highway 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; www.howtodrillawell.com).



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