Slimline Water Tank Is Great For Work Trucks

Polyethylene Slimline water tank holds 110 gal. and attaches to truck's headache rack. It measures only 9 in. deep and 36 in. tall so it doesn't take up much space.

"We used to carry a couple of 55-gal. drums of water on our work truck for making concrete to set posts in our fencing business," says Randy Campbell of C&M Fence in California. "It was always a pain to handle the water, so one day I decided there had to be a better way."

Campbell looked around for a tank that would work for his needs, but only found oval or round tanks that took up a lot of space on his truck bed. "That's when I came up with the idea of building my own tank, to minimize the amount of space it required."

Campbell's idea was a single container that would hold about 100 gal. and mount to the headache bar on his work truck. After a few prototypes, he settled on a sturdy low density polyethylene slimline tank that measures 9 in. deep, 36 in. tall, and 86 in. wide. It has .250 in. thick walls, is UV-stabilized and carries 110 gal.

"The design was exactly what we needed to carry a nice supply of water for our fencing needs, yet not interfere with the space needed for hauling tools and fencing supplies," Campbell says. His company builds fences for several military bases and often works in remote areas where water isn't available. "I knew the tank idea was a good one when people who saw it asked where I got it," Campbell says. "That's when I decided to produce and sell them myself."

He contracts with a commercial manufacturer who builds the Water Hopper using a rotational molding process. That manufacturing process produces even wall thickness on all sides. The hopper has 2 interior baffles to prevent sloshing.

"It's been a great product for us, and we've sold many tanks to other fence builders, landscapers, mechanics and even farmers," Campbell says. "The real beauty of the tank is that attaches very easily to the headache rack of a flatbed truck with 2-in. straps. They hold it securely in place no matter how much water is in it." The Water Hopper is easy to fill through a 3-in. dia. inlet on the top that has a threaded cap. A 3/4 in. threaded brass spigot receiver at the bottom is used for gravity draining. Even though the Water Hopper was initially built for commercial and industrial use, Campbell says it's also FDA-approved for drinking water. The Water Hopper sells for $375 direct from the manufacturer, with shipping extra.

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Custom-Built Feed Wagon

Chambers Feeding Tank holds 2 1/2 to 3 tons of feed and has a unique internal design that keeps feed from caking and solidifying.

Mississippi farmer Greg Chambers has received a patent for a prototype feeding tank that he hopes to produce and market soon. His Chambers Feeding Tank, which holds 2 1/2 to 3 tons of feed, has a unique internal design that keeps feed from caking and solidifying. Chambers says he came up with the idea in 2008 and has spent the past 7 years improving the concept and getting it patented. He used it during that time on his farm where he raises soybeans, corn, cattle and goats.

Chambers hatched the tank idea during cold, wet and sleeting weather as he fed his cattle. He says the tank he was using didn't have a cover so moisture would fall on the feed and it would clump up inside the machine. His idea was to have a cover on his tank and to have special paddles inside to mix and stir the feed. He wanted to load the tank with mechanical equipment and be able to add ingredients. His design incorporates all those features and keeps feed dry and pliable so it will unload without clumps in the feed troughs.

He built his prototype from scrap iron and metal at his farm, then used new materials for succeeding designs. The model he plans to use for production has a sturdy frame made of channel iron, dual wheels and an operator platform so small amounts of feed ingredients can be added from bags or pails. The discharge folds flush to the surface of the tank for easy transport.

Chambers says his machine has drawn a lot of interest from different livestock farmers and he hopes to produce units for sale in the near future.

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Combine Balers Catching On Fast

Hillco's Single Pass Round Bale System for Deere combines produces corn stalk bales that contain husks, cobs, leaves and any excess kernels exiting rear of combine.

GK Machine in Oregon produces a single pass system that connects Massey Ferguson big square balers to most popular combines.

Harvesting corn or small grain residue with a round or square baler pulled behind a combine is catching on fast with many crop producers. Hillco Technologies produces the Single Pass Round Bale System (SPRB) for Deere combines that makes residue round baling more economical than ever. GK Machine in Oregon produces a single pass system for a Massey Ferguson square baler that fits most popular combines (see story below).

"We're saving a trip across the field, we're saving manpower, we're producing cleaner residue bales, and we're making this approach a sustainable option year-after-year," says Lenny Hill of Hillco. "Bales from the SPRB system are cleaner, heavier, more dense and have higher feed quality than those produced by traditional raking and baling from the ground." The company says the fine, compact material in SPRB bales also grinds faster than traditional stalk bales.

Hillco's SPRB System produces cornstalk bales that contain husks, cobs, leaves and any excess corn kernels exiting the rear of the combine. Tests in Iowa and Nebraska the past 3 years show that the moisture of SPRB bales is just over 18 percent compared to just over 15 percent for a cornstalk bale that's raked and rolled. Ash content is just 3.6 percent compared to 12 percent for conventional bales and TDN value is 57.10 compared to 47.61.

Hill says "Catching residue before it hits the ground is the key. If it's fit to combine, it's fit to bale, and both jobs are done in a single pass. A farmer doesn't have to worry about when the stalks or field will be dry enough to rake and round bale." Hill says the SPRB System pulls about .8 to 1.4 tons per acre of residue off a corn field producing 188 to 200 bu. per acre yields. The system collects the upper parts of the corn plant and leaves about 2 tons of material per acre on the field for decomposition.

Hillco's baler system works behind Deere S670, S680 and S690 combines with ProDrive transmissions. A hydro pump attached to the combine engine's output shaft powers a high torque motor on the baler. It draws about 35 hp for operation. A gear pump off the straw chopper drives the baler's conveyor and feed rolls. Baler functions are automatic so the combine operator can concentrate on harvesting.

MF Combine Baler

GK Machine in Oregon produces a single pass harvest and bale system that connects a large square baler (a Massey Ferguson 2270XD that produces 3 by 4-ft. bales) directly to a combine. The baler pto is removed and power to the baler is supplied by a hydraulic motor on the combine. A special hitch connects the baler to the combine frame. Residue moves to the baler on a conveyor so material never touches the ground. The setup is made for Class 8 and larger combines. GK says its system fits most popular combine models and doesn't require modifications to the combine or the baler. The baler can easily be converted back to a tractor-powered unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hillco Technologies, Inc., 1010 lst Ave., Nezperce, Idaho 83542 (ph 800 937-2461;www.hillcotechnologies.com) or GK Machine, 10590 Donald Road NE, Donald, Oregon 97020 (ph 877 678-5525).