

Bale Feeder Also Shelters Calves

Dennis Fisher's big bale feeder also keeps his calves dry and warm. The steel 5 by 10-ft. Feed-N-Shelter Combo stands about 3 ft. off the ground with 3 solid sidewalls. The one open side and no floor make the shelter ideal for calves.

"I have a 100-head cow herd and 4 Feed-N-Shelter Combos," says Fisher. "The feeder works fine for a big bale of hay, which is about right for 25 cows, and the shelter handles about 25 calves for the first 4 months or so. They can be pretty good size and still get in there."

Fisher notes that hay over the top helps to insulate the shelter. At the same time, hay that drops gets dragged inside by the calves to serve as bedding as they move in and out.

"The calves will find the roof and get under it while the cows are standing around eating," says Fisher. "When the wind is blowing, those shelters get full of calves. The big thing is for them to get out of the wind, no matter what the temperature is."

Fisher likes the Feed-N-Shelter for ease in moving as well. He can pick a unit up with bale spears and set it down in a clean area. It's designed to fit into small areas or at the edge of a building.

"When it's muddy in the spring, I put them in line and feed the cows sugar beets for energy or even a mixed ration," says Fisher. "It works like a high bunk feeder. The cows can reach to the middle and clean it off."

Fisher fabricates the Feed-N-Shelter Combos with 11-ga. steel for the feeder floor/shelter roof and sides. He uses 2-in. sq. steel tubing for framing.

"They weigh about 1,000 lbs. each," says Fisher. "I sized them in part for easy delivery by truck. They are priced at \$825 each, FOB, Watertown, S. Dak."

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Big bale feeder mounts on top of shelter that keeps Fisher's calves dry and warm. He uses a loader tractor with bale spears to pick unit up and set it down in a clean area.



Log chain wraps through holes in wheel rim and over tire several times, and attaches together with double-nutted nuts. Short lengths of plastic hose protect wheel rim.

Log Chain Used To Get "Unstuck"

"Sometimes you can get a machine stuck in the field even when using tire chains, but here's a trick my dad taught me about 50 years ago that works," says Gary Swensen of Yankton, S. Dak.

His idea makes use of a short length of heavy log chain without hooks.

"Wrap the chain through the holes in the wheel rim and over the tire several times, then attach the chain together with double-nutted grade 8 bolts," says Swensen. "Run the chain inside short lengths of plastic hose in order to protect the wheel rim. The heavy log chain will bite in to get you out of mud, ice or snow."

"You don't want to drive too far this way, but you can get out of a tight spot when you're alone with no one to help and you'll save the cost of a tow truck. I always keep a log chain in my trucks along with the necessary bolts, hoses, nuts and washers just in case. A note of caution - don't run the chain through the hole where the wheel's valve stem is located, or you'll soon be repairing a flat tire."

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Simple PVC Nipple Waterer For Chickens

"My new 1-gal. pvc chicken waterer comes with up to 8 drinker valves that keep the chickens' drinking water clean at all times. It can be insulated so it'll never freeze up," says Jason Birch, Hooversville, Penn.

The 3-ft. tall, T-shaped waterer is made from 1 1/2-in. pvc pipe. It has a screw-on cap on top for filling and 2, 4, 6, or 8 drinker valves at the bottom. It sells for \$25 plus S&H.

"A big advantage is that with the screw-on cap there's no need to clean the inside of the waterer. The drinker valves can be easily cleaned by turning each valve a quarter turn and removing the cup for cleaning."

Each drinker valve can serve 8 to 10 chickens. "The waterer can be easily upgraded to accommodate more chickens as needed," says Birch.

Birch sells the components for the basic, non-heated model and the customer can then put it together in only about 25 min. Or, he sells pre-built units. He also makes a heated no-freeze model with heat tape that's only sold as a pre-built unit.

The heated 2-drink cup waterer sells for \$49.99 plus S&H.

Birch says he can custom-build his waterers to the customer's specifications.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jason Birch, 146 Number 3 Road, Hooversville, Penn. 15936 (ph 814 279-0242; jasonbirch63@yahoo.com).



T-shaped waterer has a screw-on cap on top for filling and up to 8 drinker valves at bottom. Cap eliminates need to clean inside of waterer.

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