

"Double-Duty" Round Bale Trailer

"My round bale trailer can haul 12 bales at a time and does double duty as a feeder," says Dan Peterson, Burdick, Kan., who uses the trailer as a feeder during the winter and for hay transport during the summer.

George Miller designed and built the trailer for Peterson from scratch. He started with a tandem axle from a house trailer and added a third axle. He built the frame from 30-ft. lengths of 3 1/2-in. dia. pipe with 2 1/2-in. dia. crosspieces. Three sheets of 6 by 10-ft. steel tread plate, 1/8-in. thick, are used as a floor for the feeder and also make it usable as a flatbed trailer when the trailer's four bale cradles are removed. Two cradles bolt to each side of the trailer's frame, with each cradle hold-

ing three bales. Bales are automatically unloaded by pulling a dump lever at the front of the trailer. There's one set of latches for each set of cradles. The front two cradles trip first, then the rear two cradles. Once bales have dropped off, the spring-loaded cradles relatch themselves. Each pair of cradles is removed by unbolting four bolts. A loader is used to set the cradles back onto the trailer.

The inside half of each cradle is covered by cattle fence panel to keep hay from falling onto the floor as cattle eat. Peterson spent about \$2,000 to have Miller build the trailer-feeder.

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Cattle Pens Made From Old Center Pivot Irrigation Pipe

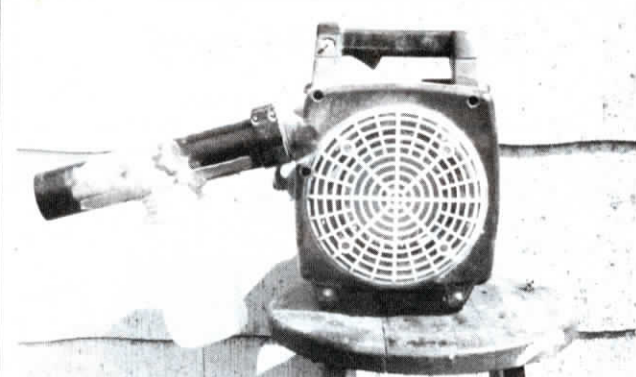
Cow-calf operator Roland Hemmann, Amherst, Neb., uses 32-ft. lengths of old center pivot irrigation pipe to build inexpensive cattle pens on his farm.

"They don't cost much to build and are very strong. Even bulls can't break through them," says Hemmann. The 14-ga. pipe, which varies from 6 5/8 to 7 in. in dia., forms the top and bottom of each fence. Hemmann welds 42-in. long angle irons (salvaged from the center pivot system) vertically between the pipes, then welds wire mesh hog panels (for calves) or truss rods (also salvaged from the center pivot system) onto the angle irons. The

angle irons are spaced 48 in. apart when wire mesh panels are used and 64 in. apart when truss rods are used.

Hemmann uses short pieces of angle iron, 1/2-in. dia. "oversize" pipe, and 9/16-in. dia. steel rod (salvaged from spokes in center pivot steel wheels) to make hinges between the big irrigation pipes in each corner of the pen. "I can swing each 32-ft. section of fence to any angle I want," says Hemmann.

He mounts commercial gate panels on pens by bolting a 42-in. length of angle iron onto pipe flanges and welding a pair of hinges onto the angle iron. The gate



Duster Attachment For Gas Blower

"I got the idea one day while using my Echo gas-powered blower for cleanup. I thought that if I could find a way to feed insecticide into the blower pipe I'd have quite a duster," says C.E. Christian, Bourbon, Ind., who uses his blower to apply dust-type insecticides to fruit trees, garden plants and also blows lime into livestock quarters.

Christian modified the lid of a quart canning jar, punching a hole in it to create a small "air scoop". Then he fastened the

lid to a short pipe that attaches normally to the blower. A standard quart jar screws into the lid. Air blasting out of the blower passes over the lid, sucking dust up out of the jar.

"One jarful of dust is enough to treat our whole garden or a 40-ft. tree. Works great because it blasts out far enough to cover entire trees," says Christian.

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can be used to close an alley between two pens, or, when used with other gates, to form a smaller pen. "The gates can be used to subdivide the pens and can be clamped on anywhere along the fence,"

says Hemmann. "They're lightweight so I can carry them around."

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Front-End Loader Posthole Digger

"I made my own hydraulic posthole digger. I bought a hydraulic motor and an auger from a farm supply store and mounted them on a swinging bracket that lets me drill holes at any angle on any terrain," says Roger Sobotta, Arcadia, Wis.

The motor mounts on one side of a short piece of 3/8-in. sidewall 4 by 4-in. sq. tubing. A bearing that connects to the auger mounts on the opposite side of the piece of tubing. A short shaft connects the motor to the bearing.

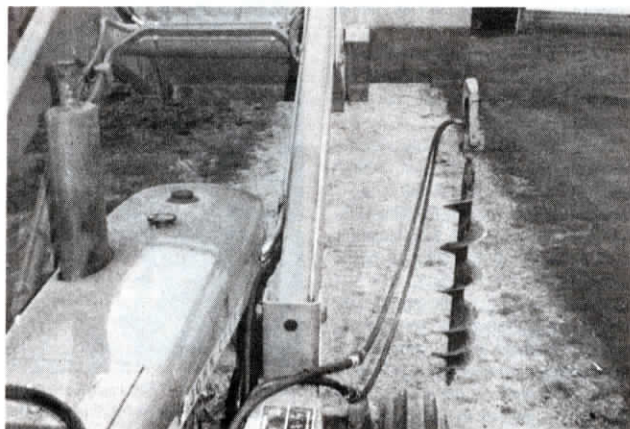
"With the shaft locked into the bearing, there's no direct pressure put on the orbit motor itself," notes Sobotta.

A piece of 3/8-in. strap iron attaches to either side of the 4 by 4 tubing and runs up over the orbit motor. A 1-in. dia. shaft is welded horizontally inside the top of the strap. This shaft slides into a short length of pipe that's welded permanently to the

bottom of the bucket on his Deere 2440's front-end loader. "The pipe is the only thing that stays on the bucket at all times. This mounting system lets the augers swing back and forth. Makes it easy to drill straight up and down holes on rough terrain or you can angle it to set posts at an angle," says Sobotta.

To power the auger, he runs two 8-ft. hoses over to the lines that normally control the loader bucket. When the auger is hooked up to these hoses, it makes the bucket inoperative but the loader itself can still be raised and lowered. The auger is operated by simply moving the bucket remote lever in either direction, causing it to go in forward or reverse.

Total cost of the auger was approximately \$225, including \$130 for the orbit motor and \$65 for the auger. "The auger is 8 in. in dia. but any size would work



because there's plenty of power. We've used it for 3 years - works super," Sobotta says.

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