

Shipping Container Makes Great Feed Bin

Mack Rankin needed extra feed storage for his 60-cow herd so he bought a shipping container. The dairy farmer's simple modifications made the container ideal for using his skid steer-based feed system.

"Standard bulk bins are great, but the size we needed cost \$5,000," says Rankin. "The shipping container cost half that, plus we already use our skid steer to scoop supplement. With the container, we can use it to scoop up cornmeal as well."

Rankin set the container on a shale pad for drainage. The shale prevented the locking rods on the door from engaging so he used his angle grinder to remove the bottom tabs and shorten the rods slightly. He also added a ramp leading up to the doorway.

"The doors still seal tightly with just the rod tops engaging," says Rankin.

The biggest change was to cut a hole in the roof for easy access by the delivery truck. He made a lid for the opening by cutting a 35-gal.

drum in half and setting it over the hole.

To secure the barrel, he bent threaded rod, inserted the bent end through the lower wall of the barrel and the other rod end through the top of the container and tightened them down.

"I used rubberized silicone and a light coat of Flex Seal around the barrel and the fasteners," adds Rankin.

He built a lid out of scrap wood and steel roofing and hinged it to the top of the barrel. It can be opened with an 8-ft. 2 by 2 from the inside and closed from the ground outside.

"With a little shoveling, we can fit 11 tons of cornmeal into the 20-ft. container," says Rankin. "We had a tight budget, and this works great. Even if the skid steer tracks in some mud, once it dries, it is easy to sweep out."

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Mack Rankin needed extra feed storage for his 60-cow herd so he bought a 20-ft. long shipping container and modified it to use with his skid loader-based feeding system.



He cut a hole in container roof for access and then cut a 35-gal. drum in half and set it over hole, adding a hinged lid (left). Container's shale pad prevented locking rods on door from engaging so he shortened the rods slightly.

Wooden Beds Add Class To Pickups

Whether you have an old pickup to restore or a new pickup you'd like to class up with a wooden bed liner, Bruce Horkey's Wood & Parts likely has the materials and parts you need.

Horkey, a former cabinet maker with a fascination for old pickup restoration, recognized how much woodwork was involved in the hobby and decided to fill the need for replacement bed parts and accessories. In 1980, he and a couple family members started Bruce Horkey's Wood & Parts in Windom, Minn. Thirty-five years later, the business has eight employees and about 50 old Dodge, Chevy and Ford pickups in a "museum yard" that provide patterns for the wood, steel and fiberglass parts Horkey's manufactures and supplies for pickups built from the 1920s through 2005.

"In 1988, we realized the Big Three auto manufacturers weren't offering a wood floor

option any longer," Horkey explains. "So we developed the Show Deck, a hardwood and stainless floor overlay. This product allows the new truck buyer to blend current technology with the classic look of the past."

Horkey's custom cuts the materials to fit all type of pickups and they've done special orders for other types of vehicles such as El Caminos, station wagons and special show cars.

Customers can choose from oak and ash cut locally or custom order more exotic woods such as black walnut. Kits also include the hardware and marine-grade spar varnish. Complete Show Decks start at \$920 plus shipping.

Horkey's doesn't claim to have parts for all old trucks, but their catalog includes an impressive inventory with everything from fenders and hoods to cabs and exhaust systems. When parts aren't in their inventory,



Wooden bed liner for pickups has a hardwood and stainless floor overlay. Bruce Horkey custom cuts the materials to fit all types of pickups.

Horkey says staff works with clients to create them.

The website includes details of parts available and a link to a YouTube video installing a Show Deck.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Horkey's Wood and Parts, 46284 440th St., Windom, Minn. 56101 (ph 507 831-5625; www.horkeywoodandparts.com; woodandparts@yahoo.com).

Older Semi Trailers, Containers Great For Storage

A-1 Storage customers get extra storage space delivered as they need it. The company's 48 and 53-ft. trailers that are no longer up to long distance trucking are just fine for stationary use or short hauls. From 11 staging yards, the firms service individuals, organizations and companies in Iowa and surrounding states.

"We can pull trailers down the road from one site to another," explains Marty Kelzer, A-1 general manager. "They're great for use with forklifts, moving materials in and out as needed."

Kelzer says customers include retailers who are temporarily overstocked or manufacturers who are stocking up on parts for an upcoming project.

"The trailers are ideal for temporary storage of items that will need to be moved in on demand," says Kelzer. "They also work well for businesses who need remote storage for supplies or parts. Farmers with remote locations will set up temporary storage of tools, lubricants and other supplies during busy seasons."

In addition to older semi-trailers, A-1 Storage offers containers from 10 to 48 ft. in length. The water-resistant, lockable and secure containers can be set up as remote offices, storage units or shelters.

"We have customers with remote timber plots who want secure shelter for their 4-wheelers and other gear," says Kelzer. "We are also getting a lot of interest from seed companies wanting to lease or purchase containers."

Kelzer says the portable containers are also popular with people moving out of their homes. "We can drop a container off, and the customer will load their furniture and other belongings," he says. "When it is full, we pick it up and deliver it to the new house, and they unload it. Containers are easier to load than moving vans because they are at ground level."

A-1 offers short and long-term leases on trailers and containers. They are also for sale when available, starting at \$1,200.

"We have more than 1,400 containers moving in and out of 11 yards with 7 trucks a day out on delivery," says Kelzer. "We do everything we can to make sure our customers have what they want when they want it."

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A-1 Storage customers can get extra storage space delivered as they need it. The company says its 48 and 53-ft. semi truck trailers work fine for stationary use or short hauls.



A-1 also offers lockable containers from 10 to 48 ft. long that can be set up as remote offices, storage units, or shelters.