

"IF YOU BLOCK UP THE WHEELS, THEY'LL HOLD A TON OF FEED"

Cut-Down Passenger Cars Make Great Cattle Feeders

Old cars make great mobile cattle feeders, according to Saskatchewan farmer Leonard Digney who got the idea several years ago. "It's a cheap way to make a sturdy feeder you can move when it gets muddy," he told FARM SHOW.

Digney hitches his car-feeders together in groups of three, towed behind a tractor. He removes the seats and cuts away the roof and trunk lid for easy access. Windows are removed, or rolled down into the doors. He leaves the front-end on the car-feeder directly behind the tractor but cuts away the front-ends and engines on the two feeders towed behind the front car. The front-ends are replaced with a heavy tongue - made from any scrap pipe he can find. The makeshift tongues hitch to the car ahead with a length of chain. By removing the front ends of the trailing feeders, Digney says he can make nearly 180°

turns. He leaves the front-end on the lead feeder so it'll stand alone when unhitched. The only other modification to the car-feeders is to block up the rear springs with a couple pieces of angle iron to handle the extra load.

Digney says he can put nearly a ton of silage, or the biggest round bale, in an average size car. "Cattle eat it all right down to the floorboards. We like the feeders because they're cheap and we can easily move them every day if we have to during wet months," says Digney, who notes that if you get stuck with some feed left in the cars, it's easy to clean them out by just opening the car doors.

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Digney removes front ends of all cars except the one directly behind the tractor, allowing him to make nearly 180° turns with several feeders in tow.

USES 3-PHASE ELECTRIC POWER IN PLACE OF HYDRAULICS

Powerful Tractor Built From Two Earth Movers

"You can't believe how much power it's got," says Glen Lindberg, Cut Bank, Mont., about his "monster tractor" built from two earth movers.

Lindberg started building the tractor 5 years ago when he bought two Le-

Tourneau-Westinghouse scrapers from a contractor. The engines in the machines were no good, and some of the other components were worn out, but they were just what Lindberg wanted. The LeTourneau machines are unusual in that they don't have hydraulics. Everything is run by 400-volt, 3-phase power, heavy-duty, electric winches.

"The fellow who originally designed these machines, named LeTourneau, is the only guy who ever successfully figured out how to use electric winches under difficult working conditions. The advantage is that you have less problems than with hydraulics, there's no oil to leak out or to replace, and electricity works just as well or better," says Lindberg. Power is supplied to winches throughout his monster tractor by a big 2,000-lb. generator.

Lindberg bought the two scrapers for \$3,000 (he got a third one thrown in to cut up for extra parts). Both rigs were fitted with 6-cyl. 225 cu. in. diesel engines and 5-speed Allison transmissions (they were the only new parts used on the tractor). He then

took the front ends off both machines and joined them together at the center, reversing the direction of one of the units. A vertically-mounted gear head with an electric motor steers the king-size, articulated tractor through turns sharper than 180°. Atop the rear half of the machine, Lindberg mounted a cab from a '57 Chevrolet pickup for the operator. The machine is fitted with 6-ft. tall, 30-in. wide 32-ply tires.

"Building this tractor went so well it's almost like these machines were designed for this conversion," Lindberg told FARM SHOW.

He uses the tractor as a one-pass tillage and seeding machine. It carries a 55-ft. wide cultivator Lindberg built from scratch for less than \$1,000, using drill pipe for the frame. The cultivator mounts on the scraper draft arms so it's positioned out to either side of the tractor. This lets the operator watch the wings without turning around. A big home-built air seeder mounts just behind the tractor. A grain tank holds 4 tons of seed, and a fertilizer tank holds 4 tons. The cultivator is also

rigged to apply herbicides, and is equipped with rod weeders and harrows. In one pass, Lindberg tills, plants, fertilizes, weeds, harrows and applies herbicides. If everything goes right, he can cover up to 40 acres per hour.

Governors on both engines are synchronized to generate the same amount of pull and Lindberg also installed heat indicators on the exhaust to keep tabs on work being done by each engine. Steering is controlled by a vertical stick the size of a pencil. A pair of 40-hp. electric winches quickly raise and lower the cultivator wings. The machine carries 660 gal. of fuel in two 330-gal. tanks.

"It's surprisingly economical to operate. On a good day we burn about 1/2 gal. per acre but it can go as high as 7/10 of a gal.," says Lindberg. In all, he spent about \$25,000 to build the monster tractor.

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