

## “Built To Last” Bale Rings Made From Plastic And Fiberglass

This new round bale feeder is made from plastic and fiberglass, making it lightweight yet strong, according to inventor Vance Haugen, Canton, Minn.

The one-piece bale ring measures 7 ft. 4 in. in dia., which Haugen says is 6 to 12 in. wider than most standard bale rings. “The extra space allows you to load two 4-ft. dia. bales into the ring side by side,” he says.

The bale feeder’s 3 rings are all made from 3 3/8-in. dia. polypropylene water line thermal-welded together into a single continuous ring. The rings are supported by vertical lengths of 1-in. dia. recycled oilfield fiberglass sucker rod covered by 1 1/4-in. dia. polypropylene water line. “The propylene keeps sunlight from splintering the fiberglass and getting into your hands or into the animal’s hide,” says Haugen.

The bottom of the bale ring is covered by a solid plastic skirt that uses stainless steel bolts on the lowest area where it touches the ground.

“I came up with the idea for a plastic and fiberglass bale ring because I couldn’t find any reasonably priced steel bale rings on the market that would last. I think most of the good plastic or fiberglass bale rings on the market are overpriced and I wanted something more affordable,” says Haugen, who raises cattle. “The thermal-welded plastic rings are really strong so you won’t

have to worry about them coming apart. Plastic is a lot lighter than steel which makes my bale rings easy to move, and they won’t rust or rot.”

A Wisconsin company, Great River Irrigation in Tomah, welds the rings together for Haugen. They start with a 26-ft. long water line and put it on an 8-ft. dia. jig to bend it into a circle that’s welded together. “The company uses the same water line and welding system they use in the center pivot irrigation systems that they put together for local farmers,” says Haugen.

He says most commercial bale rings are bolted together. “You can take bolted-together bale rings apart, which is a great selling point for shipping. However, over time the rings will fall apart wherever they’re bolted together,” says Haugen.

One drawback to a one-piece bale ring is that it’s not easy to transport, admits Haugen. “However, once my bale rings get to the farm, they won’t fall apart and they’ll last forever. I have some prototype rings that are 6 years old but they still look great.”

Haugen sells his bale rings for \$435 apiece provided you pick them up at his farm. “The cost of shipping a one-piece feeder is too high to make it practical,” he says.

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“The thermal-welded plastic rings on my bale feeder are really strong, so you won’t have to worry about them coming apart,” says inventor Vance Haugen.



Bottom of bale ring is covered by a solid plastic skirt held in place by stainless steel bolts.

## Small Feed Wagon Fits Pasture Poultry

Hanging feeders in 500-bird mobile hoop houses makes supplementing pasture easy, but you still have to get the feed to the feeders. Maple Wind Farm, raising 17,000 broilers on pasture, uses Kory 1-ton gravity box wagons from Premiere Fabrication.

The 40-bushel wagon boxes are fabricated from 14-ga. steel for sides, bottom and frame. The feed slides easily on the 27-degree slope. Mounting to a wagon frame is easy with U-bolts.

Inside dimensions are 72 in. long, 51 in. wide and 49 in. high. The running gear increases height to 62 in. The weight is only 390 lbs.

Premier Fabrication suggests the wagons, with their formed steel lid and rear discharge

for filling feed pails, are ideal for a variety of livestock. They are also well suited to haul corn for corn-burning furnaces, as well as wood pellets.

The Kory 1-ton can easily be pulled with a pickup, lawn tractor or ATV. Maple Wind Farm delivers feed in the wagon using the same pickup that moves their mobile hoop houses.

The 40-bu. 1-ton gravity box by itself is \$795. It’s available on a 2-wheel trailer for \$1,725 or a 4-wheel trailer for \$1,981.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Premier Fabrication, P.O. Box 36, Congerville, Ill. 61729 (ph 309 448-2338; www.premierfabrication.com).



Kory 1-ton gravity wagon has a formed steel lid and a rear discharge for filling feed pails. Works great to haul corn for corn-burning furnaces, as well as wood pellets.

## Drum Composts Dead Livestock

“Our new Drum Batch Composter is designed to break down swine and poultry carcasses fast and completely. It lets you turn organic waste into valuable compost,” says John Kloetze, Actium Resources Limited, Goderich, Ontario.

The Compost Drum features a molded barrel built from solid steel that you rotate by turning a hand crank. All components, including the drums, paddles, frame, mounting brackets, and chain guard are made from solid steel and are protected by a rust inhibitor.

Product claims include reduced energy compared to incineration or bin compost systems. The rotating unit also requires less added material compared to other carcass composting methods. The drum is insulated with high density glass fiber insulation protected by a stainless steel jacket, which creates more heat and helps micro organisms break down organic matter faster. Vents in the drum and lid provide microorganisms with the air they require for rapid organic composting.

“The Actium Compost Drum has 55 cubic ft. of capacity and will handle up to 1,500 lbs. of dead animals. Complete composting takes from 3 to 7 days,” says Kloetze. “It offers several advantages over incinerators. The drum requires no energy input from electricity or fuel, rodents aren’t attracted to your disposal site, and disease causing pathogens are destroyed. You’re not burning fuel and creating smoke on your farm, and you won’t have wild animals scavenging around your farmstead.”

He says the unit is designed for the average size poultry farm “that wants to dispose of birds in an effective way without spending a lot of money. Instead of spending \$30,000 to \$40,000 or more, you can buy our batch compostor for less than \$10,000. It’ll handle about 500 lbs. of dead birds a week. If you buy one today that fits your size operation, you can add to it later if you increase your operation. You don’t have to replace it with a larger, more expensive unit. Also, the compostor doesn’t need power so you can



Drum Batch Composter features a molded barrel that you rotate by turning a hand crank. All components are made from solid steel and protected by a rust inhibitor.

move it anywhere you want.”

Kloetze says the Actium batch compostor is being used in other markets, too, such as restaurants, universities, nursing homes, resorts. “It works great anywhere there’s organic residue, such as food waste, that you want to dispose of on site,” notes Kloetze.

The company also offers a continuous flow

composter model for larger operations. It sells for about \$24,000.

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