



Dubbe system provides one 2 1/2 gal. plastic feeder per cow.



Pitzen "Delay Feeder" holds 20 lbs. and serves two cows.

## FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND HIGHER MILK PRODUCTION

# Feeders Feed Cows While You're Away

At least three companies have introduced "delay feeders" that feed cows automatically while you're away to increase milk and butterfat production.

FARM SHOW first featured Dan Pitzen, Clinton, Iowa and his "Delay Feeder" 2 1/2 years ago (Vol. 8, No. 6). Since then, Dyna-Matic Feeding Systems, Plymouth, Minn., has introduced its "Snack Feeder" and Starline Products, Inc., Harvard, Ill. has unveiled its "Grain Brain" feeding system.

While the three systems differ, they're similar in that they allow you to double the number of times per day you feed cows grain. For example, if you normally feed at 6:00 in the morning and evening, you feed half as much to each animal and put the other half in the grain holder. Then, later in the day or night--such as noon and midnight--a timer automatically triggers the release of the feed in the grain holders to the cows.

Manufacturers of the new feeders claim milk production increases of 2 to 6 lbs. per cow per day, plus increased butterfat production. In addition, there's the time and labor savings of having the extra feedings done automatically. Manufacturers also note that more frequent feedings of lesser quantities may help reduce acidosis by reducing the overload on the rumen.

Here's a closer look at the three systems:

### "Delay Feeder"

Dan Pitzen's system features individual feeders that hold 20 lbs. of grain. Each feeder serves two cows and is clamped to the stallion or tie stall posts just above the manger. It's mounted high enough so cows can't eat out of it. Pitzen notes that you can equip your entire barn with the feeders, or just install them for a few top producers to test out the system.

An electro-magnetic solenoid activates a lever to open the feeder door when the

timer so indicates.

Delay Feeders sell for \$110 each, while the timer and switch sell for \$65.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Pitzen, P.O. Box 167, Clinton, Iowa 52732 (ph 319 243-9010; evenings call 242-5108).

### "Snack Feeder"

This new feeder from Dyna-Matic Feeding Systems also feeds two cows at once. Its plastic dispenser unit holds about 20 lbs. of shelled corn. It, too, is mounted just out of the cow's reach. The unit's trap doors are opened by an air cylinder connected by air line to an air compressor controlled by a timer.

Snack Feeders sell for \$107 each. The base control unit consisting of the air compressor, timer, and air line sells for \$350 and will accommodate up to 100 cows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dyna-Matic Feeding Systems, Inc., 17000 Medina Rd., Plymouth, Minn. 55447 (ph 612 559-5007).

### "Grain Brain"

Developed by Minnesota veterinarian Dr. Ron Dubbe, this system provides one 2 1/2-gal. plastic feeder per cow. Steel mesh over the top lets you mount the feeder low so it's easy to dump feed in but the cow can't stick her nose in to sneak feed out.

A weighted shut-off ball inside the feeder is lifted automatically by galvanized aircraft cable pulled by a power cylinder powered by a compressor that generates nearly 500 lb. of pull. The cable is enclosed in pipe along the stallion to keep the cow from tripping it.

System sells for \$56 per stall plus \$640 for the control and power unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Starline Products, Inc., 300 West Front St., Harvard, Ill. 60033 (ph 800 435-2825; in Ill. 815 943-4441).

## "BIN CRANE" ELIMINATES NEED FOR JACKS

# Fast New Way To Build Grain Bins

"Our Bin Crane is faster than bin jacks because you merely lift the bin with the winch as you add each ring," says Marvin Baumle, manufacturer, Kelsey, Alberta.

The 45-ft. bin crane can lift up to 8,000 lbs. with a 12-volt electric or hydraulic winch. The bin is lifted by attaching the lift cable to a tripod hook or tire. It's capable of setting a 5,000 bu. bin onto a hopper bottom.

The crane pulls easily behind a 1/2-ton pickup and lowers to 14 ft. for road transport. It'll raise up to 45 ft. for building bins, setting rafters, lifting machinery, or any lifting chore. Axles extend from 9 ft. to 14 ft. in width for extra stability.

The 45-Ft. Bin Crane sells for \$5,900 (Canadian). A smaller 35-ft. model sells for \$5,100.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Baumle, Baumle Enterprises, Kelsey, Alberta, Canada (ph 403 373-2512).



Bin Crane raises to 45 ft. and lowers to 14 ft. for transport.

## LETS YOU FEED 50 COWS IN 4 MINUTES

# Computerized Feedcart For Precision Feeding

"This is the first powered cart that's programmable so you can give each cow the exact amount of feed for maximum production," says Dennis Hilgendorf, president of CSF Inc., Stoughton, Wis. about his company's new Digifeed feed cart.

"There are other powered carts on the market but none that you can program. And there are programmable track feeders, but they cost \$10,000. Our new programmable cart sells for \$4,300," he points out.

Digifeed can be programmed to feed up to 999 cows one ration, or to feed 100 cows 10 different rations. For example, you could set the cart to feed each cow their required amount of grain on one pass, then use a second setting for a return pass to top-dress concentrate.

"One of our customers has 3 hired men who used to feed his 150 cows by hand. He found that by feeding with the cart, and ensuring that cows received the right amount of feed no matter who was feeding, his herd average increased 900 lbs.," Hilgendorf notes.

"Setting up the system is easy. Initial coding into the control unit takes just five minutes," he says. "You punch in the cow's number and the amount of feed she should receive. Then, when you go through the barn feeding the animals, you punch up the cow's number, press a button on the steering arm and the correct amount of feed is fed out."

After feeding that animal, the Digifeed control automatically moves to the next cow number. If you feed cows by stall numbers, you can feed 50 cows in just four minutes, says Hilgendorf. He notes that, normally, you'd recalibrate the cart once a month when test reports come in with the new feed requirements. If a cow is ill or otherwise off-feed, the control can be manually overridden to give the



You punch in cow's number and the amount of feed she's to get. Then, when feeding, you punch up the cow's number and the correct amount of feed is dispensed automatically.

animal less feed.

Calibrating the control for a particular feed involves running the conveyor for a set amount of time, weighing the amount of feed discharged and punching in the appropriate number. Once set, the cart's accurate to 1/10th of a lb.

It's powered by two 12-V. batteries. However, even if the batteries go dead, the control keeps animal rations intact in its memory. The system is sealed to make it dust and moisture resistant.

The cart is equipped with a 2-speed conveyor, direct powered front wheel drive, steel frame, plywood hopper (14 or 17 bu. capacity) and an adjustable variable discharge door for controlling flow rate whether you're feeding shelled, cracked or ground feed, pellets or soybean meal. Its single control handle lets you turn on the dime.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CSF Ag Division, Inc., 810 Hwy. 51E, P.O. Box 182, Stoughton, Wis. 53589-0182 (ph 608 873-7130)