

“Tire And Tote” Mineral Feeders

Old car tires make good low-cost livestock mineral feeders, says Don Boggs, Pickens, S.C., who put together a car tire and the bottom part of a plastic barrel to feed salt and minerals to his livestock.

“Cattle can’t knock it around and it won’t rust out. It’s virtually indestructible,” says Boggs. “I keep it inside a shed so the feed stays dry.”

Boggs started with a barrel that measured 23 in. in dia. He cut off and used the bottom 12 in., then cut out the top side of a 16-in. tire so the barrel would fit through. He used a tapered bit to drill several holes in the bottom rim of the tire for water to drain, and so he could drive rods into the ground to hold the tire in place. Welded-on washers keep the rods from going all the way through the tire. The barrel sets on the tire’s bottom rim.

“The barrel doesn’t fit perfectly inside the tire, which leaves small gaps where water can come in. However, the holes allow the moisture to drain,” says Boggs. “I installed



Bottom part of plastic barrel fits inside a tire with its top side cut out. Barrel sets on tire’s bottom rim.

an eye bolt in the tire’s tread which makes it easy to move the feeder around.”

Tote Mineral Feeder

Boggs used an old tote and its enclosed plastic “bladder” to make a big outdoor mineral feeder. Using a cordless angle grinder he cut a 2-ft. wide, 14-in. high opening into one side of the tote, cutting through both the tote and bladder. He then made a cover for the opening by cutting several 6-in. wide flaps out of some tire inner tubes, overlapping them to keep out rain and snow. The flaps are attached to the container with 2 rows of self-tapping screws spaced about 6 in. apart. They hang down well below the opening, but can be raised out of the way and clamped on top of the tote.

A horizontal metal strip screwed on above the opening, and treated wooden strips screwed onto each side of it, protect the edges of the opening. Boggs also attached a 1 3/4-in. dia. horizontal plastic pipe to the bottom of the opening. “I drilled holes into the pipe to correspond with short metal stubs that I left in place as I cut out the opening. The pipe friction fits onto the stubs and extends a few inches outside the opening, which



Calves feed through a big opening cut into both tote and bladder. Rubber cover above opening keeps out rain and snow.

keeps calves from pushing the flaps inside the opening, and letting rain in.

“I can quickly move the tote around by hooking a chain onto it.”

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Plant Poppers, Dibble Wheels Make An Impression

Two Bad Cats’ Plant Poppers and Dibble Wheels came from on-farm, firsthand experience. Peter Giles was helping out a neighbor when he saw the need for better tools. The simple designs developed by Giles and his engineer dad Rick have since gone global.

TBC’s Dibble Wheels are multi-purpose. They are designed to leave an impression in beds to accurately space transplants. They can also be used over plastic mulch to punch holes.

“Plant Poppers are made for planting seed flats,” says Giles. “When the trays are full of soil, flip the Plant Popper over and press the pegs in lightly to make holes for seeds.

“We’ve shipped them all over the world, as well as through national distributors in the U.S. and Canada,” says Giles. Two Bad Cats (TBC). “We’ve sold into most states and provinces. They fit small-scale farms all over the place.”

Versatility really makes the Dibble Wheels from TBC stand out. Removable dibles let the user pick from 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 15, 22 and 41-in. spacing. The 2 1/2-in. long, 1-in. dia., aluminum dibles are screwed in place to the 2-in. wide, plastic outer wheel and easily reversed to point inward. Push handles are offset to avoid walking on a bed.

“We started making the single Dibble Wheels and then expanded,” says Giles.

TBC markets Single Dibble Wheels for \$229.99. The Adjustable Dibblers (double wheels) are priced at \$349.99. The Infinite Dibbler for multiple wheels starts at \$134.99 for the 12-in. spacing. It is also available in widths of 18, 32 and 36-in. widths for up to 4 wheels on 12-in. spacings. The Infinite Dibbler can be ordered with 2 arms for use by 2 people or as Cat 0 and Cat 1 3-pt. hitch models. Extra wheels are priced at \$129.99.

Giles makes Plant Poppers for use with several common brands of starter flats. Prices start at \$49.99 for a 50-plug T.O. Plastics tray. All Plant Poppers are made from warp and crack resistant wood, and hardwood pins using linseed oil as the only coating.

TBC also makes other small farm aides like grid rollers for row and plant spacing, a tine weeder and more.

“People like our simple and easy to understand designs,” says Giles. “We try to keep our tools as simple as possible.”

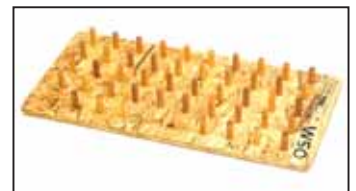
Rental and demo Dibble Wheels are available. As a special customer service, the website has a page devoted to home made dibble wheels, based on what Giles has



Two Bad Cats’ 3-wheeled Dibble Wheel is designed to leave an impression in beds, allowing you to accurately space transplants.



Single and double-wheeled Dibble Wheels are also available (above). The pegs on Plant Poppers are designed to make holes for starter seed flats.



learned. They even offer to sell some of the components used in their designs.

“We offer our design and advice for non-commercial use only,” says Giles. “Feel free to make one for your farm, but please don’t make extras to sell.”

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Extension kit bolts together using 8 spring-loaded plastic panels. The extra capacity allows grain trucks to unload faster and reduces unloading loss.

“Flex” Hopper Extension For Your Grain Auger Bed

“Our new Flex Hopper extension kit increases your grain auger bed’s capacity by 12 to 13 bu., and lets you unload grain trucks up to 30 percent faster while greatly reducing unloading loss,” says Paul Romack, Dieterich, Ill.

The patent pending, bolt-together kit is compatible with all swing bed augers and assembles in 30 min. with no special tools required. It includes a stainless steel, powder-coated frame; 8 spring-loaded panels made from UV-resistant plastic; a heavy duty pvc waterproof rain cap; and a weighted mesh mat. “The mat sits under the swing auger bed to filter through resulting in more bushels in the bin at cleanup,” says Romack.

Installation is as easy as setting the Flex Hopper inside your existing auger bed. No mounting to the auger is required. The hopper is heavy enough to support itself, but light enough to be placed in the auger by 2 people.

“You can run the auger faster and open the gate on the truck to allow more grain in the auger bed without having to worry about the auger slinging grain everywhere. It also helps in case there is a need to quickly shut down, because it acts as a catch bucket while you shut down the auger and close the truck gate.”

He says the flex portion of the assembly is

what sets the system apart.

“Almost every farmer has built some sort of box or propped up a board to keep grain in the auger bed. The problem with doing this is that trucks and trailers have different pivot points on the dump beds. If the pivot point is farther forward, then it’s possible the rear of the dump bed will hit the farmer-built box.

“Our system differs in that if the truck bed does hit the hopper, its flexible sides will move with the truck bed and then spring back once the bed is lifted. The system retains all its benefits even when flexing the sides of the hopper. The heavy duty rain cap keeps rain out of the auger bed so it doesn’t turn the grain into a stinking mess, and the mesh mat helps in the same way. All these benefits result in more bushels in the bin.”

The Flex Hopper comes in standard orange and black, but custom colors are available. Frame sizes are made specific to your auger bed. Auger bed dimensions are needed when ordering.

The kit sells for \$995. Dealer inquiries welcome.

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