



Ameri-Ag tip proof bunks have no metal and can be converted to a water trough and can be nested together for transport or storage.

Tip-Proof Feed Bunks Will Never Rust

When Travis Graves, owner of AmeriAg became fed up with cattle feed bunks that either rusted out or were poorly designed, he decided to create his own.

"I got tired of cattle, and especially bulls, easily turning over other bunks that were designed top-heavy," says Graves. "My bunks are wedge or trapezoid shaped to prevent turnover. Because they're wider at the bottom, cattle aren't as likely to try and jump over them. They have to stand back a little farther when eating."

AmeriAg's bunks are manufactured and molded with double-walled polyethylene in their Burlington, N.C., shop. No metal is used, so rust and corrosion are never a problem.

"A really nice feature of the bunks is we put in a threaded drain plug all the way through both walls to easily convert it into a water

trough," Graves says. "Other bunks have drains through one side so they can still fill up with water, freeze and crack."

He's in the process of upgrading the bunks by adding indentations for easier transport using loader forks. The models quickly and neatly store by nesting one on top of another and can be moved by sliding loader tines underneath, then lifting and carrying.

AmeriAg makes 4 and 10-ft. bunks weighing 55 and 120 lbs. respectively. Prices are in the \$365 range including S&H but depend on numbers ordered and delivery location.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Travis Graves, AmeriAg, 4824 Friendship Rock Creek Rd., Burlington, N.C. 27215 (ph 877-551-4916; info@ameriag.com; www.ameriag.com).

Farm Tough Multi-Tool Holster

Timothy Rankin and his brother were fed up with store-bought holsters for multi-tools that could not stand up to life on the farm for more than a couple of months.

"Our multi-tool holsters are designed to handle extreme use and abuse on the farm. After a few tweaks and purchasing an industrial sewing machine, we started making these for family and friends, and it has grown into a business," says Rankin.

The holsters use fire hose as the main wear surface and heavy holster leather on the outside. They have a rare earth magnet sewn inside to hold the tool secure inside the holster where it won't vibrate and wear through the bottom. It can quickly be inserted or removed with one hand.

"I recently upgraded them to Kevlar thread, which is twice as strong as nylon, fireproof and extremely wear-resistant," says Rankin.

Made in the USA, the holsters sell for \$35 each. Holsters come in two sizes. Large is designed for the Leatherman Surge. Medium



Multi-tool holsters are made from holster leather, firehose and Kevlar thread and have a rare earth magnet sewn inside.

is designed for the Leatherman Wave. Other tools and sizes can be made by contacting Rankin on their website.

"The holsters come in some simple decoration options, and we also do custom designs and leatherwork, but our focus is on the multi-tool holsters," says Rankin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Timothy Rankin (timothymichaelrankin@gmail.com; www.farmtoughleather.com).

Firewood Wrapper Built To Last

Bundling firewood goes quickly with firewood wrappers built by Amos Lapp in Rockville, Ind. He recently took over manufacturing them from another area business.

"It is built heavy and can be powered with compressed air or an electric motor," says Lapp.

A foot pedal that turns the film on the shaft on the 1/4-in. steel flywheel keeps the hands free to gather wood to be wrapped.

Lapp welds and assembles the wrappers (about 200 lbs.) in his home shop and uses freight shipping to get them to customers. At about 60-in. tall, the wrapper is a comfortable working height.

Basic models start at \$1,300. Equipped for compressed air the price is \$1,800, and models with a 1/3 hp. electric motor sell for



Lapp's firewood wrapper can be powered with compressed air or an electric motor and is operated by a foot pedal.

\$1,950.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Amos Lapp, 5061 N. Judson Rd., Rockville, Ind. 47872 (ph 765-597-2032).



Hofer came up with a simple way to create a round tree ring for mulching that saves time and makes a perfect ring every time.

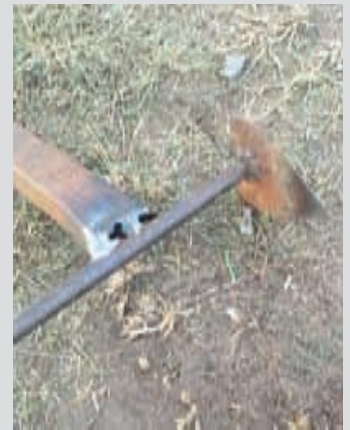
Tree Mulch Ring Maker

"We have a small orchard of about 100 trees around which I like to place a nice round circle of mulch," says Ernest Hofer, Olivet, S.Dak.

"I used to use a tape measure and measure away from the tree trunk, making marks in the dirt. But that took time and wasn't that easy to follow.

"So, I measured the diameter of the ring that I wanted, divided by 2, and then used some scrap 1/2-in. dia. rod to make a gauge. I welded an old bean header blade to the end to serve as a scratch marker. I put a 4 by 4-in. piece of flat iron on the other end to butt up against the tree. There are two handles along the rod that make it easy to make a perfect circle around each tree that I can then fill with mulch."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ernest Hofer, 27709 Tschetter Ave, Olivet, S. Dak. 57052 (ph 605-770-9778; tsc.ernest@gmail.com).



Hofer used an old bean header blade for the circle marker.

Quick Way To Check Water Levels

Luke Simons shared a simple tip for monitoring tank water levels from a distance in a recent issue of On Pasture, the online grazing management newsletter (www.onpasture.com).

A renter of Simons tied a small weight to a plastic jug and dropped it into the water tank. "However, sometimes the cows would kick that out," says Simons. "I put about 3 in. of water in it so it would still float, but the cows were still pushing it out."

Simons then added more weight but tied the weight so it rested on the bottom of the tank. This time, it just stayed there.

"From a distance, I can see what the water



A small weight tied to a plastic jug makes a cheap water level monitor for a stock tank.

level is," he says. "I've seen people buy similar floats for \$27, but this cost nothing."

Lift Makes Moving Chicken Tractors Easy

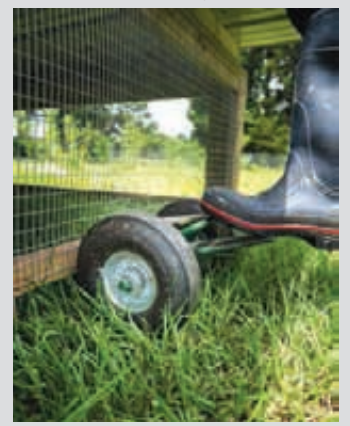
Moving chicken tractors can be hard work. ChickLift is a hands-free system made in Texas that's designed to help. With a load capacity of 600 lbs., the steel ChickLifts are fitted with two solid rubber flat-free tires.

The lift allows you to raise the pen up off the ground with your foot and then put it down again quickly, protecting your animals and saving stress on your back.

"Animals are given fresh grass every day, and yesterday's bathroom is not today's salad bar," says ChickLift user Joel Salatin.

Available online at ChickLifts.com and also at Amazon, the ChickLift sells for \$140 plus shipping. They offer an optional pull kit that has an 8-ft. plastic coated steel wire, 8-ft. 3/4-in. dia. stiff CTS tubing, zinc plated wire clamps and galvanized eye bolts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ChickLifts, P.O. Box 71, Silsbee, Texas 77566 (ph 409-656-1785; www.ChickLifts.com).



The ChickLift mounts directly to a chicken tractor with supplied hardware. Its solid rubber wheels roll easily over rough ground.