

Feed Train's UTV feeder uses a poly tank and an aluminum base and holds up to 600 lbs. of shelled corn.



Portable Feed Tank For UTVs

The idea for Feed Train's UTV feeder was born when a customer built a homemade model that sat on the back rack of a 4-wheeler. He also wanted something to fit in the rear of a side-by-side, so he came to Feed Train to ask them to work on a more usable design.

"His original unit was heavy steel, but we used a translucent poly tank for its reduced weight and to be able to see how much feed was inside," says Eric Lutz, Feed Train manager. "We added an aluminum base and built-in forklift pockets for lifting on and off a UTV. It also has handles on both sides for manual lifting."

The 63-in. wide and 38-in. high tank sits on a 12-in. aluminum base and can hold up to 600 lbs. of shelled corn. The entire unit is strapped to a UTV bed at multiple points. An aluminum cover is held in place with bungee cords.

"Our 4-in. electric auger sits down in the

bed, so it carries the load as low as possible," Lutz says. "It's slightly angled to easily move the feed out the side."

The feeder has its own absorbed glass mat (AGM) battery, so it doesn't drain the UTV's power supply. A 9-ft. control cord for dispensing feed along with a 9-ft. charging cord come standard. Control leads can be disconnected and remain installed on the UTV.

Available options include a digital scale and a modified auger for feeding range cubes.

The units are built from scratch and assembled in Unionville. Dealerships are located throughout the U.S., but Lutz says they're always looking for more.

Prices for the portable feeders start at approximately \$2,225 plus S&H.

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Aluminum fuel tanks don't rust and are lighter for shipping.

"No Rust" Aluminum Fuel Tanks

A casual conversation about the shortage of fuel tanks with someone from the local fuel company inspired David Lambright to get into the business of manufacturing aluminum fuel tanks.

Lambright, owner of Dalam Welding, fabricates a variety of items and has a roll machine he uses to make pontoons. He decided to test the fuel tank market.

"We made a couple of fuel tanks, set them out and people bought them right away," Lambright said, noting he had made tanks in the past for a short time out of steel but quit because they rusted easily. When he started advertising the aluminum tanks, orders came in, and he's been shipping them all over the country.

With aluminum, there's no rust, and they are lighter weight for shipping. He works with independent truckers to deliver the tanks from his Indiana business to different regions, and shipping costs vary from \$250 to \$600.

Lambright's skilled welders pressure test each tank twice and will install the hose

assembly if requested. The tank can be set on concrete blocks or a slab. Or it can be installed on a 5-ft. tall tank stand for fuel gravity flow. The stand must be secured to something solid, so it won't blow over.

Currently, Dalam Welding offers three sizes of fuel tanks from 150 to 500 gals., and costs \$1,555 to \$2,495 plus \$230 for hose assembly, plus shipping. The 300 gal. is the most popular size, Lambright says. His largest tank end diameter is 38 in., and he hopes to offer 48-in. dia. tanks in the future.

"We'll make custom sizes," he adds. "We can also have them powder-coated."

High fuel prices have created a demand for the tanks.

"One customer bought two tanks and said he was going to 'load up' when fuel costs went down," Lambright says.

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Portable water pump showing solar panel and batteries inside old chest freezer turned on its side.

Solar-Powered Portable Pump Goes To The Water

Dan Erdman takes his solar-powered water pump to the water source, whether it's a remote well or just a water hole. The solar panel, pump and batteries are all carried on a 2-wheel trailer pulled by a quad.

"We made the trailer using the rear wheels from an old Chrysler K-car," says Erdman. "We mounted the 250-watt solar panel and an old chest freezer on the deck of the trailer. The freezer lays on its side and holds four deep-charge, 6-volt batteries and an AC inverter."

When Erdman pulls alongside a water source, he drops a 3-gpm submersible pump into the water hole, plugs it into the inverter, and walks away. A 12-volt float switch shuts off the pump when cattle tanks are full.

"We used the K-car rear wheels for the trailer, but you could use rear wheels from any front-wheel drive car," says Erdman. "With solid beam rear axles, they are just easier to work with than rear-wheel drive axles. It was easier to narrow the wheelbase

to line it up with our quad."

The angle-iron trailer frame is overlaid with a plywood sheet. Hitch jacks are mounted on each corner to level the trailer and the 60 by 38-in. solar panel.

Erdman primarily uses the solar panel-powered pump to keep three interconnected tanks filled in the summer. In the winter, he only uses the center tank. In his area of southern Alberta, Chinook winds regularly melt off snow, allowing him to graze his herd until January.

"The 3-gal./min. keeps up with 60 head of cows and calves in the summer," says Erdman. "It has to work to keep up when the days get short. If I used it year-round, I would double the panel and battery system."

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How To Make A Fishtail Spade

Fishtail spades have a flat, flared, triangular blade that combines the traits of a traditional Dutch hoe with an ordinary round-point shovel. The result? A versatile, multi-purpose tool.

You can use it for hoeing, edging, transplanting, chopping roots, and other earth-moving garden tasks. Many gardeners also use them as a standard shovel to lift turf, toss stones, and even hack through brambles.

It's possible to make a fishtail spade from an ordinary shovel with a few simple cuts. The farming blog Earthfarm.ca lays out clear instructions.

First, take a standard pointed shovel and draw two chalk lines along the blade at a diagonal to form a tail. Connect them with a line across the bottom to create a flat edge. Ideally, the tool should have a front edge that's about 6 in. wide with side edges 9 in. to 10 in. long, with a 3-in. throat where it connects to the handle.

Angle grinders with a thin kerf-cutting blade work well for making these initial cuts. Then, use a grinding disc for back beveling on the back and side edges. The finished spade will have three working edges and two working surfaces. It will be lightweight and well-balanced, so you can use it with one or both hands.

The result is a custom tool that's light enough to use all day and versatile enough



Photo from Wikimedia Commons

A fishtail spade combines the traits of a Dutch hoe with an ordinary round-point shovel.

to tackle almost any garden task. Says Earth Farm, "It does 80 percent of outdoor jobs 100 percent well."

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