

“Split-Duty” Grapple Forks

“It has two sets of forks, each operated by a separate hydraulic cylinder. The two cylinders equalize pressure, allowing you to haul uneven loads without causing stress to the grapple or loader,” says Joel Haden, Haden Industries, Cedar Vale, Kan., about the company’s new-style grapple fork.

The 6-ft. wide “split-duty” fork quick taches to the loader arms in place of a bucket. It’s equipped with ten 1 1/2-in. sq., 42-in. long straight tines and a pair of forks that operate independently. Each fork rotates on a separate steel shaft mounted above the bucket.

“You can also use it to carry big bales,” says Haden, who came up with the new design as a way to handle brush cut by the company’s main product, the Kansas Klipper. “The forks are 6 ft. 5 in. high when open and 33 in. high when closed. If one side of the load is higher than the other side, the forks on the other side will keep traveling until the pressure equalizes.”



Each side of new grapple fork operates independently.

Sells for \$2,800. A larger model with forks that raise to 8 ft. 4 in. when open sells for \$2,950.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Haden Industries, Rt. 1, Box 98, Cedar Vale, Kan. 67024 (ph 316 758-2424).



MTH converts 20, 24 and 40-ft. cargo containers into mobile houses.

Low-Cost Mobile Housing Made From Steel Ocean-Going Cargo Containers

Steel ocean-going cargo containers can be converted into low-cost mobile housing for farm workers, says a Washington company which converts 20, 24, and 40-ft. cargo containers into mobile housing units.

MTH Inc. (Modular Transportable Housing) of Yakima, converts the containers into a wide variety of designs for housing or work areas. The container houses sell for \$12,000 to \$17,000 depending on the design.

“They’re built super strong yet are also attractive and comfortable to live in,” says Jim Wiley of MTH.

The company starts with surplus refrigerated ocean containers. They remove the refrigeration units and install doors and windows as well as interior framing, wiring, plumbing, insulation and interior finish to the customer’s design specifications. The outside of the units is available either painted or finished with decorative siding. The container’s original end-mounted access door provides easy access to the mechanical area which includes the water heater, main wiring, and plumbing.

“They’re made from CSC plated solid steel which makes them virtually indestructible. You might skin them up but you won’t hurt them,” says Wiley. “They also work great as a summer cottage or lake home. No foundation is necessary. There’s no plumbing below the floor except where the main water line comes in. Vinyl-covered wall panels are used to separate the rooms. We can add aluminum framed windows, ceiling insulation, insulated exterior walls, electric baseboard heat, wall-mounted air conditioner, undercounter refrigerator, and



Interior features all the comforts of home.

more. A sloped aluminum roof is optional.

“The units can even be placed side by side, end to end, or stacked on top of each other to make a two-story building. They can be shipped by highway, rail, or sea to their final destination.

“We can ship ready-to-live-in containers anywhere in the country. For example, shipping by truck from Washington to Minnesota costs about \$2,300.”

The company also converts cargo containers into collapsible storage sheds that can be easily handled by a forklift via a hook at the top center. The sheds are 7 ft. wide, 7 ft. 8 in. long, and 8 ft. high and collapse to 2 ft. high. The units can be stacked on top of each other for additional storage capacity. They sell for about \$800 apiece.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MTH Modular Transportable Housing, 1011 Schuller Grade, Yakima, Wash. 98908 (ph 509 248-8616; fax 8656).



“Cyber Feeder” consists of a 6-ft. wide, 12-ft. long, 8-ft. high steel hopper equipped with electronic sensor that reads ear tags on animals.

SOLAR-POWERED UNIT AUTOMATICALLY DISPENSES CORRECT AMOUNT OF FEED

Computer-Controlled Portable Cattle Feeder

“Our new portable computer-controlled livestock feeder lets you automatically feed livestock the correct amount and type of feed several times a day - out on pasture - and individualize it for each animal, resulting in much better feed efficiency and reduced labor,” says Loren Vigesia, Sheyenne Advanced Feeding, Cooperstown, N. Dak.

The “Cyber Feeder”, which is still in the prototype stage, consists of a 6 ft. wide, 12 ft. long, and 8 ft. high steel hopper divided into three bins and mounted on a trailer. Three feed stations mount on one side of the hopper and are each equipped with an electronic sensor. As the animal enters the feeding station, the sensor “reads” a computer chip implanted in an ear tag and then sends the information to an on-board computer. The computer calls up input data supplied by the rancher about the animal and activates augers, which dispense the correct amount and type of feed.

The entire system is powered by a solar panel that mounts on front of the hopper and keeps a pair of deep cycle batteries charged.

“It takes all the guesswork out of feeding cattle and can be customized to fit almost any need,” says Vigesia. “The input data about the type and amount of feed for each animal is downloaded onto the computer by the rancher, using a laptop computer. The computer keeps track of how many times each cow has entered the feeding station and how much it has eaten. The

system will dispense only as much feed as is programmed and can be programmed to dispense the feed at whatever times you want. Feeding small doses keeps livestock from overeating and improves feed efficiency.

“The bins each hold 60 bu. of feed and can be filled with ground grain, whole grain, or pellets. The bins can be loaded with the same feed or three different feeds which can be blended according to each individual cow’s feed requirements. The system’s nine augers are driven by gear motors that are powered by a 12-volt D.C. motor. The augers mix feed from different bins and deliver the feed rations to the feeding stations. Each station can feed 20 to 25 cows.

“So far we’ve made only one prototype model which was tested last summer at North Dakota State University. We think money can be saved by getting the cattle out on pastures sooner in the spring and by keeping them out later in the fall. Cattle could be put out on poor grass and left longer when using this new feeder. It’s not an inexpensive system - we estimate the selling price will be \$31,500. We think it’ll be especially beneficial to dairy farmers and to purebred cattle operations who want to calibrate exact rations for each animal.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sheyenne Advanced Feeding, Rt. 2, Box 52, Cooperstown, N. Dak. 58425 (ph 701 797-2301).

Kit Improves Performance Of Deere Planters

You can improve the performance of your Deere Max-Emerge planter with this new kit from the McMan Corporation of Bird Island, Minn.

The “Posi-Plant” kit consists of a heavy-duty seed shoe and pair of disk scrapers that run inside the disk blade. Because the seed shoe runs slightly below the level of the disk opener, it creates a true V-shaped trench, instead of leaving a “W” of soil in the bottom between disk blade tracks.

The result is more uniform depth and seed-to-soil contact for a better stand, the company says. It’s also ideal for small-seeded crops such as sugar beets.

Sells for \$65 per row.



Heavy-duty seed shoe and pair of disk scrapers run inside disk blade.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McMan Corporation, R.R. 1, Box 116, Bird Island, Minn. 55310 (ph 320 365-3275).