

Made It Myself

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Heavy-Duty Portable Livestock Chute

Not satisfied with the commercially built livestock loading chute he was using, Robert Bauer, Hastings, Minn., decided to build his own heavy-duty, 16-ft. long portable chute out of an old semi-truck frame and front axle.

"It's built out of steel so heavy it's virtually indestructible," says Bauer, who built the chute five years ago.

Bauer bought a junked-out semi-truck with no engine from a trucking company for \$50. He stripped the truck down to the frame and front axle, leaving the 20-in. tires and leaf springs on the axle. He welded the steering tie rods solid to the axle to keep the wheels from moving and welded a series of 1-ft. wide channel irons between the frame rails to support the floor. Vertical side rail supports made from 5-in. channel iron hold eight 2 by 12 wooden boards bolted onto the channel irons to form the chute.

"It works so well my neighbors are always borrowing it," says Bauer. "I had been using a portable wooden chute, but it was clumsy and shaky to use. Also, the floor was too short and steep. My chute is only 32 in. wide so hogs aren't able to turn around inside it. I can use a crank to raise or lower the front end of the chute up to 20

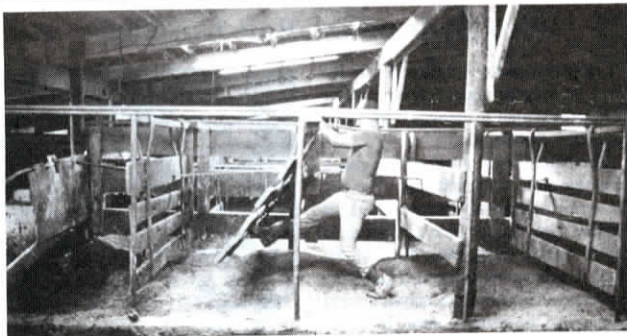


in. to accommodate different trucks."

Bauer clamped a hydraulic jack upside down onto the axle, welding the top end to a steel plate that's welded between frame rails. He removed a shackle from the end of each leaf spring and bolted a pair of 20-in. long channel irons on between the spring and frame. To hold the chute in the raised or lowered position, he pulls a pin from the channel iron, cranks the jack, and inserts the pin back into a different hole.

The back end of the semi-truck frame is tapered and is equipped with a short hitch that can be hooked up to a tractor drawbar or 3-pt. hitch.

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Swinging Free-Stall Partitions

Swing-out free-stall partitions make it easier for cows to get to their feet and also speeds bedding and clean-out, says Mike Schmitz, Sherman, N.Y.

The wood partitions hang by heavy rubber straps from overhead crossbars which allows them to swing in either direction.

Schmitz notes that in addition to convenience, the free-swinging partitions also reduce the risk of cows' catching their legs under the partitions.

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Chain Link Fence Leveling Drag

In certain types of soil, when using sweeps on his 10-ft. Graham Hoehm chisel plow, Melvin Buller of Colorado Springs, Colo., says he used to end up with ridges that needed leveling.

He came up with a no-cost solution by making a leveling drag out of a 5 by 10-ft. piece of the heaviest chain link fencing material he could find.

For greater flexibility, he attached two 2-in. dia. steel pipes to the front edge of the drag (instead of using one pipe all the way across). The pipes hook to an oak 2 by 4 which is hitched by chain to the back of the plow. At the back of the drag, he

attached three 2-in. dia. pipes, again to allow flexibility as it passes over clods or uneven ground. When more weight is needed on particularly cloddy ground, he ties fence posts to the front and middle of the drag.

"The flexibility of the chain link and the absence of spikes, keeps the drag from catching uprooted weeds and gathering clumps of dirt. Weeds and dried stubble just roll under the drag," says Buller.

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Tractor Tire Makes Nifty Rust-Proof Feeder

"It's an inexpensive way to give new life to rusted-out hog feeders," says Harry Thompson, Lohman, Mo., who cuts rear tractor tires in half to replace the rusted-out troughs on the 12-hole round hog feeders.

Thompson cuts off the bottom portion of the trough and uses a chain saw to cut the tractor tire in half. He places the cut side of tire up and bolts the tire onto the feeder, directly under the lip of the trough.

"It works as good as a new feeder and cost only \$3 to \$4 worth of bolts," says Thompson. "The tire is durable and rust-proof. I use Midwest hog feeders, but I think it would work on any 12-hole feeder. Since the feed trough is usually the first part of a feeder to wear out, many feeders lose their value after only a short period."

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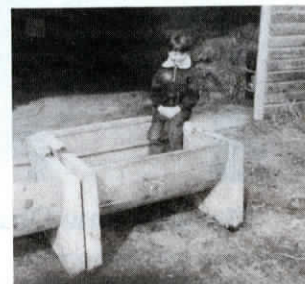
Feed Troughs Made From Cable Spools

Large wooden cable spools can be cut in half to make ideal cattle feed troughs, says Tom Lill, Alsen, N. Dak.

"We've used some for two years now and they've been almost indestructible, yet easy to move around. Each feeder accommodates two or three head of cattle.

"I got the spools free from our local electric co-op. You can make two feeders out of each spool. It takes about 2 hrs. to cut one apart and then to do some re-nailing along the cuts. I used a large bayonet-type power saw to make the cuts.

"One word of caution is that you should be sure to stand clear as you finish the cut. The spools weigh about 300 lbs. and come apart with crushing force if not



blocked well."

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