

## Mobile Feed Bunk Made From House Trailer Frame

Bill Kurtz, of St. Croix Falls, Wis., built mobile feed bunks out of old house trailer frames. He got the frames for about \$200 from trailer houses that had burned. The I-beams form a solid base on which to weld a steel floor and pipe uprights. Two sets of wagon or car wheels are attached to make the bunks portable.

Kurtz used 1 1/4 in. steel pipe for the 26-in. uprights and sheets of 14 ga. bonderized steel for the bed. He was able to get 4 x 10 ft. sheets at a good price, but he says that regular galvanized steel could be used. The horizontal rail at the top of the uprights was made from 3/8 in. gravel screen rods, but Kurtz feels that silo hoops or reinforcing rods would also work.

The bunk in the photograph is

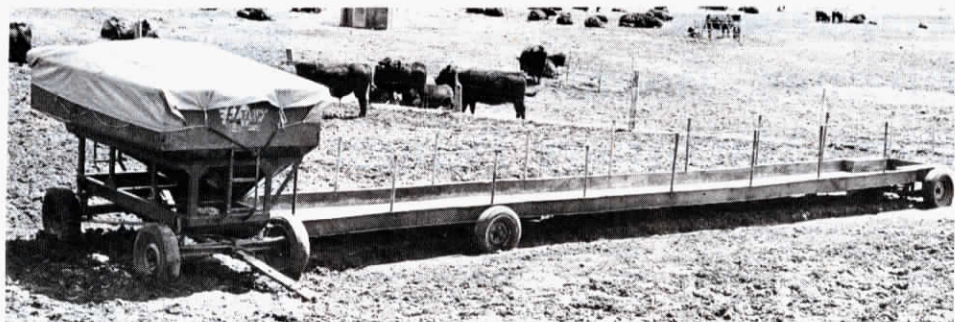


Photo Courtesy Country Today

40 ft. long by 4 ft. wide, the width being determined by the size of the sheet of steel available. He has built later models 5 ft. wide. "This seems to be an ideal width," says Kurtz. "The wagon wheels are single axle, but for a longer bunk you might want to use double axle wheels, though they might be harder to move."

A final attachment is a wagon hitch to pull the units around. Kurtz has a long drawbar on one

unit so he can pull it without detaching a rear end loader on his tractor.

Kurtz strings several of the mobile bunks together in a 135 ft. line to feed his more than 100 cows and feeder cattle. He uses the bunks for grain and silage feeding because they have a tight bottom, and notes that there is almost no feed wasted.

Kurtz feels that anybody handy with a welder can build this kind of bunk with materials

at hand. He has used different sizes and materials, and has even built the earliest ones with plywood bottoms. "But plywood doesn't hold up as well and can be almost as expensive as steel," he advises.

His first bunks were made from a 3-ft. dia. smokestack cut in half. "This worked pretty well but was not quite wide enough," he notes.

## High Capacity Grain Wagon

A western Nebraska irrigated corn grower modified a used highway semi trailer for field use behind his farm tractor.

Tom Russell, LaMar, can haul 1,200 bushels of corn from the field in one trip. He purchased the used semi hopper-bottom trailer for \$5,000. "It was in good shape, only three years old," he notes.

He then took an old semi tractor he had on hand, cut the front end out of it, retaining the fifth wheel, and made a "dolly" for the front end of the trailer. He then fashioned a hitch to connect the dolly to the drawbar of his tractor. The fifth wheel position can be moved forward and back to place "about any amount of weight you need on the rear of the tractor to give you traction," explains Russell. He hauls grain to his farmstead as well as into town.

No air system was devised to provide brakes on the trailer. "This area of the country is very flat and brakes aren't needed. They could be provided simply by placing an air compressor on the tractor, and powered off the

fanbelt," he points out.

Modifying the semi tractor cost about \$500, which added to cost of the used trailer, put his total out-of-pocket cost at about \$5,500. He has since purchased another hopper trailer and made a second rig. The second trailer cost only \$2,600, but wasn't in as good condition as the first. "Second-hand hopper trailers are readily available, most of them for less than \$10,000," says Russell.

The dolly under his original trailer can be quickly removed, simply by pulling the fifth wheel trip. The trailer then can be placed on a regular over-the-road semi tractor for highway transport of grain.

Russell's combine dump auger has no trouble reaching up into the large trailer, and the auger can easily place grain in the center of the trailer. The trailer's height is about 9 ft., its width 8 ft.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Russell, Rt. 1, LaMar, Neb. 69035 (ph 308 882-5883).



## Home-Made Chemical Applicator

Kentucky soybean grower Jerry Hudnall, of Bowling Green, and his neighbors are getting good control of johnsongrass, thanks to a home-made chemical applicator built from salvage parts.

"It's simple, economical, self-propelled, and adjustable to variable plant height. Operates on a 10 hp gas engine," explains Hudnall who put it together in conjunction with three neighbors who share in using it.

The 6-row applicator, which Hudnall calls the Hi-Wiper, is built on three motorcycle wheels (two in back and one in front), a rototiller mechanism, and other old machinery parts. The only new parts on it are a wick-bar, the gasoline engine, and the battery.

"It's designed to move through soybeans of any height without injuring them," says Hudnall. "The small machine can turn around in the middle of a row without running over a lot of plants. And, it uses much less fuel than a tractor."

The Hi-Wiper has several other unique features. The

wick-bar can be raised to a height of 4 ft. with the simple turn of a wheel. The wick-bar can also be tilted forward to put on more herbicide, or backward if the bar is getting too wet.

A single lever serves as the clutch, gears, accelerator, and brakes — all in one. As the lever is pushed forward, the vehicle goes into gear and accelerates up to 6 mph.

"With the Hi-Wiper, we can go into fields early and keep working them all season, even after the beans are full height," says Hudnall. "And, the machine is easy to transport in a pickup truck. The rear wheels straddle the truck and the front wheel sits in the box."

Hudnall, a former tool and die maker who still enjoys experimenting in his machine shop, says he has no plans to produce and sell the Hi-Wiper commercially.

For more information contact FARM SHOW Followup: Jerry Hudnall; Rt. 10, Box 241; Bowling Green, Ky. 42101; (ph 502 777-3322).

