

Top bead and about 3 in. of sidewall are cut off the "turned around" tires with a saber saw.



"Turned around" tractor tire bunks are portable, the right height for cattle of most any age, and virtually indestructible.

## TURNING THEM INSIDE OUT BOOSTS CAPACITY 30%

# Home Built Rig Turns Tires Into Feedbunks

You can turn used tractor, truck and car tires into virtually indestructible lightweight feedbunks with a home-built rig for turning tires inside out, designed by South Dakota farmer John Gruntmier, of Iroquois.

Gruntmier designed his tire-turning rig after he discovered that turning them inside out increases their capacity 30%. Other advantages, he says, are that the tire feedbunks are at a convenient height for cattle of any age but low enough so older animals can completely clean out all the feed. "The feedbunks are portable and easily moved from one location to another by one person, and it's virtually impossible for animals to get cut or injured on one of these inverted tire bunks," he points out.

Here's how Gruntmier built his "tire turning" rig:

First, he cut a tractor wheel rim in half and welded four metal loops to it. Then, in a circle about 2 ft. wider than the rim, he sunk eight screw-type grain bin anchors into the ground. Since it was late fall, he wet the area down and let the ground freeze as

winter came to be certain they were secure. (He notes that the stakes could be sunk in concrete, or sunk deeper, to serve the same purpose.)

To do the turning, the tire is placed over the rim, which sits in the center of the eight anchors. The top bead and about 3 in. of sidewall are cut off the tire with a saber saw. "A little soapy water or oil along the cut makes this job easier," says Gruntmier. Then, 3/4 by 2-in. flat iron "J" hooks are hooked over the now beadless edge of the tire and fastened tightly to the anchors with short chains. The tire is then turned inside out by pulling the rim up through the tire by means of the four metal loops welded to its edge.

"The actual pulling is the most difficult part because it takes a tremendous amount of lift to turn the tire," explains Gruntmier. "I decided to use my combine because of the heavy-duty hydraulics that can handle big headers. However, the 3-pt. gin pole frame I built to fit my combine will also fit tractor 3 pts. I've turned tires with my John Deere 4440."



Gruntmier turns tires inside out by pulling this sawed-off tractor rim up through anchored-down tires (above) with a 3 pt. gin pole (shown below) mounted on his combine.

The entire pulling process, from start to finish, takes about 4 minutes, says Gruntmier. To turn smaller truck and car tires, just use a smaller rim and circle of anchors.

Gruntmier has turned tires for neighbors but says he doesn't want to get into the business on a regular basis. He doesn't have plans for sale, but says he'd be willing to visit by phone with interested farmers. He asks readers not to send letters.

For more information, call: John Gruntmier, Iroquois, S. Dak. (ph 605 546-2259).



## WEIGHS UP TO 400 LBS.

# "Affordable" Scale For Weighing Hogs

You'll like the price tag on the hog Porta Scale developed by W.B. Fassbinder, of Elkader, Iowa.

"The dial on some scales costs almost as much as my entire scale," says Fassbinder, who retails his Porta Scale for \$219. "It'll weigh individual animals or litters up to a 400 lbs., and is accurate to within one pound."

The scale itself weighs 130 lbs. and can be carried by two men, or tipped into a pickup by one man, if necessary. It's 24 in. wide (18 in. inside), 45

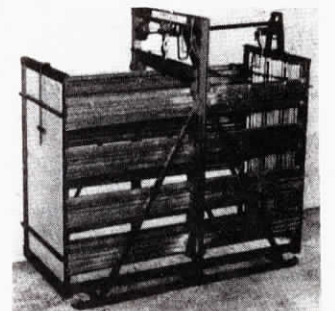
in. high, and 46 in. long. "It's ideal for placement in a finishing house alley to shuttle animals through in a minute or less each, and to check for their ready to sell," notes Fassbinder.

Although built primarily for hogs, he says the scale can also be used for weighing calves, sheep and other small animals. It can also be used as a crate in a pickup for hauling individual animals.

A removable wooden door on one end is handy to help move hogs into the scale, and a simple rod latch

holds the door in place during weighing. A panel-type gate on the other end lets hogs see through enough so they usually move in and out without problems. It makes no difference in scale accuracy whether an animal stands in the center, or close to one end, Fassbinder points out. He's developing a transport kit with wheels and a pair of swing-out handles so the Porta Scale can be moved like a wheelbarrow by one person.

For more information, contact:



Porta Scale is said to be accurate to within one pound.

FARM SHOW Followup, W. B. Fassbinder, WBF Industry, Box 207, Elkader, Iowa 52043 (ph 319 245-1148 after 6:00 p.m.)