Feeder sections are 7.5 ft. long and 42 in. high. Interlocking cable-holding sections are 5 ft. high, 15 in. wide.

ONE SIZE FEEDS ALL FEEDS, FITS ALL SIZE CATTLE

'Tombstone' Feeder Feeds Big Bales Without Waste

"It's the only one like it on the market and it's catching on fast both in Canada and the U.S.," says Eric Robinson, manager of Superior Precast, Wiarton, Ont., designer-manufacturer of the "tombstone style" Wat-Cha feeding system.

"It's the only bunk system I know of that will feed big round bales without waste. Cattle of all sizes — calves, bulls or cows — can all feed comfortably on the Wat-Cha system. It handles round bales, square bales, loose hay, corn, small grain, silage, high moisture grain — you name it," says Robinson.

Because of its modular design with interlocking tabs, you can install the system as a fenceline or H-style feeder, and it can be installed in any shape or configuration inside the barn or out.

Robinson recommends setting the bunk sections in place, then pouring concrete 4 in. high on the cattle side, and 4 in. higher inside the manger (gravel or dirt fill can be used under the concrete).

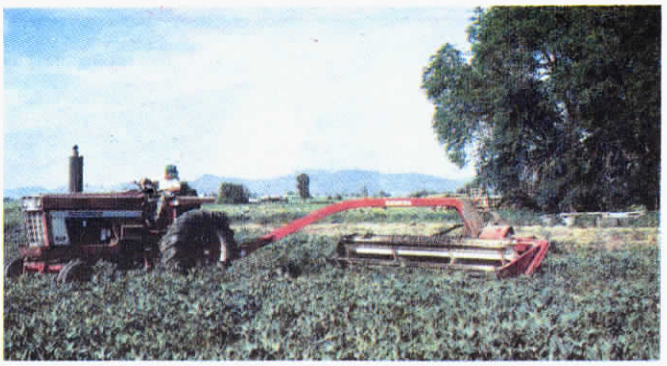
Individual interlocking feeder sections are 7.5 ft. long, 42 in. high, 4 in. thick and weigh 1,000 lbs. Headrail cable-holding sections for the fenceline configuration are 5 ft. high and 15 in. wide. Height is 54 in. to the bottom cable and 58 in. to the top cable.

H-style bunks can be custom ordered in whatever width is desired. "We recommend 4.5 ft. for dairy cattle," says Robinson.

Cost fob the factory is $14.90 per running foot without the headrail sections, and $16.20 with a headrail section between every feeder section. An optional locking head gate made of heavy pipe sells for $20 per ft.

For more details, contact: Eric Robinson, Manager, Superior Precast, Rt. 2, Wiarton, Ont., Canada (ph 519 534-2302).

"It's the only bunk I know of that will feed big bales without waste," says Eric Robinson, manufacturer.



Solid-seeded milkweed has yielded 4 to 5 tons per acre.

"COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION ONLY TWO OR THREE YEARS AWAY"

Milkweed — Farmers' Next New Cash Crop?

"Yesterday, our research was in the science fiction class. Today, we're in a 'go' situation," says Mike Alder, a plant scientist with a private research firm in Utah.

He's talking about research on milkweed, a costly and stubborn pest in row crops that may in a few years be a profitable cultivated crop on American farms.

Milkweed, known botanically as *Asclepias syricia or Aslepias speciosa*, is one of a group of plants that produce a milky sap called latex, the same basic material that natural rubber is made from. That's a clue to its potential value.

Latex is a natural hydrocarbon from which crude oil, alcohol, and even gasoline might be derived. "We see its potential as an alternate energy source, with animal feed coming from the residues," Alder says.

The research firm, Native Plants, did its first work with funds from the U.S. Dept. of Energy and now is funded by a commercial oil company.

Basic research up to this point has shown that the milkweed plant is adapted to widely variable growing conditions. It is more salt tolerant than many plants, it can tolerate a high water table, and it will grow at altitudes of 8,500 feet.

Now being grown in moderate sized field plots, it is yielding 1½ tons per acre as a row crop and 4 to 5 tons per acre when solid seeded. The harvested plants are first processed to extract the latex, then the residue is made into animal feed which is 20% protein.

Alder and his associates are now calculating the economics of milkweed production on a commercial basis. They visualize a processing plant with growers supplying it on a cooperative basis. They speculate that 20,000 acres of milkweed would supply one plant.

"Growers could get right into production using their conventional equipment," says Alder. "They will need a vegetable planter, chemical applicator, crimper-swather, and baler."

Researchers estimate that 20,000 acres of milkweed could support a processing plant.

"Weed control presents an interesting problem in a crop that is now considered a weed. We will have to show federal and state agencies that we can keep milkweed out of the places where we don't want it. This won't be a problem because we will harvest it before flowering, and we have a complete control program for harvested fields," Alder points out.

He estimates that commercial production of milkweed is only two or three years away: "It has great potential for marginal farm land in many parts of the world besides the U.S.A."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Jess Martineau, Native Plants, 360 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 (ph 801 582-0144).