

Twin 8-In. Auger Built From Single 60-Ft. Model

The cost of a new 10-in. load-out auger prompted Everett Meister, Fairbury, Ill., to look for a cheaper alternative. He ended up buying a used 60-ft. long, 8-in. dia. auger, cutting it in half, and putting the two halves together to make what he calls a "twin 8-in. auger".

The 30-ft. long auger is pto-operated. The two 8-in. dia. augers are clamped together



Everett Meister bought a used 60-ft. 8-in. dia. auger, cut it in half, and then put the two halves together.

side by side.

"I use it to unload grain from my bins into trucks. It has more capacity than a 10-in. dia. auger but not quite as much as a 12-in.," says Meister.

The 60-ft. auger was originally equipped with a 5 hp, 3-phase electric motor. Meister removed the motor and installed a new pto shaft and gearbox. He had a local machine shop make a pair of metal bands which are used to clamp the two augers together. Meister welded together a big spout that bolts onto the twin auger. A driveshaft runs from the pto shaft up to three sprockets that bolt onto the spout housing and are used to chain-drive both augers.

The underside of the auger was originally equipped with a U-shaped trough that supported the auger's drive lift mechanism. He moved the trough over between the two auger tubes and then attached the driveline mechanism.

He used sheet metal to build a 2-ft. wide,



Two short lengths of auger flighting deliver grain from home-built metal hopper to twin augers. Driveshaft runs from pto shaft up to three drive sprockets.

30-in. long metal hopper that mounts at the bottom of the auger. Two short lengths of auger flighting deliver grain from the hopper to the twin augers. A long hitch, hinged at the middle, folds down over the hopper for transport.

"I built it two years ago as a challenge and had no idea that it would work as well as it does," says Meister. "I bought the auger at a

sale for \$260 and spent a total of about \$800 to convert it. A used 10-in. dia., 30-ft. long auger would've cost about \$1,800, and a new one at least \$2,400."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Everett Meister, 11934 N 2150 E, Fairbury, Ill. 61739 (ph 815 692-4029 or 815 848-0001).

Towable Feedbunks Follow In The Same Track

Raising stocker cattle on pastures and stalk fields means you're continually moving feed bunks, says Bob Lutz, Powersville, Mo.

The process used to take him hours, even days. But no more.

Five years ago, Lutz decided to find a way to put his feed bunks on wheels and hook them together so he could move the entire string at once with a tractor or pickup. The bunks he came up with are "steerable" so each successive bunk follows in the tracks of the one ahead of it, even when making sharp corners.

He's been using this system ever since on his own farm in northern Missouri. A couple of years ago, he began the patent application process. Now, patent in hand, he's manufacturing what he calls the Feed Train bunks.

He hooks as many as 10 bunks together with no problem. You can make a short turn off the road and through a gate. If the tow vehicle can go through, the bunk train will follow without hitting posts on either side.

The all-steel bunks are 12 ft. long, 26 in. wide, and 12 in. deep. A drain built into the bottom of each bunk lets water out.

"Each bunk has two wheels. They can be hooked together in any order, one behind the other," he says.

Feed Train bunks couple together using only two lynch pins per bunk. One pin connects the steering system Lutz designed and the other connects the bunks. One person can easily roll individual bunks around to assemble them into a train. "They stay together in the pasture," Lutz says. "There's no reason to break them apart."

The bunks have standard 4-bolt, 14 in. implement wheels and tires.

A special hitch on front bunk hooks to tow vehicle.

Contact Lutz for a copy of a video showing the bunks in action. You can purchase them from him for now, but eventually he hopes to sell them through farm supply retailers. He's developing a website that should be up within the next two months. The address will be www.feedtrain.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Lutz, Rt. 2, Box 11, Powersville, Mo. 64672 (ph 660 592-2351 or 660 592-2352; fax 660 592-2354).



As many as 10 feed bunks can be hooked together to tow behind a tractor or pickup. All-steel bunks measure 12 ft. long, 26 in. wide, and 12 in. deep.



Special hitch on front bunk hooks to tow vehicle.



Bunks are "steerable" so each successive bunk follows in the tracks of the one ahead of it, even when making sharp corners.

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