

ATV-Mounted Feeder Slick, Simple And Safer

After getting knocked down and beat up by a hungry cow, Randy Stull decided to figure out a better way to feed his cows. He built a simple, gravity-fed feeder and mounted it on the back of his ATV. At the request of neighbors and family members, he started building them to sell. The beauty of the device is its simplicity.

"They are easy to mount and will hold up to 200 lbs. of feed," he says. "I make optional mounting kits to fit any ATV or UTV."

A control arm extends toward the driver. Pulling down on it lowers the feed chute and opens the sliding door for the flow of grain, pellets or ground feed. Feed flow is easily regulated by adjusting the sliding door.

The chute is long enough to extend out over a feed bunk or away from the side of the vehicle. Release the handle, and the chute lifts back out of the way, and the flow of feed stops.

The feeder is made from 16-ga., laser cut, galvanized steel. It has an 18 by 36-in. base and stands 24 in. high. A retractable top makes it easy to fill. An extension is available to double capacity for use with UTV's.

The basic 200-lb. model is priced at \$395 for use with ATV's, but can run as much as \$490 with adapter kits for use with UTV's. The basic UTV friendly 400-lb. model starts at \$495. With a handle extender, the feeders can also be installed on trucks.



Randy Stull's gravity-fed feeder mounts on back of ATV.

"The feeder makes it a lot safer than carrying feed into a pen to a feed bunk," says Stull. "The cattle stay more peaceful with less crowding and because the feed gets out quicker."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stull Feeders, Inc., 11052 Hwy. 392, Harrison, Ark. 72601 (ph 870 437-5743; toll free 800 369-4131; info@stullfeeders.com; www.stullfeeders.com).

Do-It-Yourself Studded Tires, Boots

Why slip on ice when you can install your own studs on boots and tires? Maxigrip metal studs can turn any rubber surface into an ice-crunching cleat.

"Maxigrip studs are the perfect answer for any vehicle that lacks the clearance for chains, such as skid steers, forklifts and the front ends of ATV's and tractors," explains Matt Noyes, Wallingford's Inc., U.S. distributor for the Swedish product. "Often you can put chains on the rear end of an ATV, but if you don't have them on the front, the steering is gone. You dig in with the back, but can't steer with the front. The Maxigrip studs eliminate that problem."

The studs consist of a hardened and galvanized hexagonal screw with a special hard metal core. It's screwed into the tread of a tire and should always be shorter than the tread to begin with. When properly installed, a stud leaves about a 1/8-in. tip above the tire tread surface. The studs are available in 8 different lengths to fit nearly any tire and even boots.

Noyes recommends checking for legal restrictions regarding studded tires. The studs can be removed as easily as they are installed.

"You can take them out without any damage to the tire and then reinstall the following winter," explains Noyes. "The rubber closes up."

The company recommends two to three studs per contact patch on a tire with most tractors requiring around 100 studs. A larger ATV or small tractor tire will require between 50 and 100 studs. A package of 200 is priced at \$221.65. A pair of boots will use a package of 16, priced at \$16.32. Prices vary by size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wallingford's Inc., 1010 Kennedy Memorial



Maxigrip metal studs can be screwed into any rubber surface, including tires and boots.



Studs leave about a 1/8-in. tip above surface. Photo shows studs in boot heel.

Drive, Oakland, Maine 04963 (ph 207 465-9575; www.wallingfords.com).

In Canada: UDI Equipment Inc., 219-A, Boul. Talbot, Laurier-Station, Québec G0S 1N0 Canada (ph 418 728-2050; toll free 888 728-2050; www.udi-equipment.com).

Front-Mount Hay Rake

A new rake from Danish farm equipment manufacturer Fransgard saves time and fuel by letting you rake up front and pull a baler behind.

Raking speed on the new front rake can be easily adjusted to match ground speed, thanks to the hydraulic motors on each rotor. The drive motors require only 12-gpm flow.

Oposing rotors are mounted over sets of ground wheels with caster-type action. Each set independently rotates a full 360°. The wheel pairs also can be individually adjusted to match field conditions.

Cam-operated rake arms ensure gentle fluffing and raking. The swath width can be hydraulically-adjusted on-the-go to match the trailing baler. Raking widths can vary from 14 2/3 ft. to 18 1/3 ft.

The rake travels down the road easily, folding forward and up for a transport width of less than 8 ft. The Cat. II front-mount 3-pt. hitch is built to carry the full 1,410 lbs. of weight.



Front-mount Fransgard rake saves time and fuel by letting you rake up front and pull a baler behind.

Base price is \$15,500. An optional front wheel is available for cleaner raking and less wear on rough ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fransgard North America, P.O. Box 234, Repentigny, Quebec, Canada J6A 5J1 (allen.tardif@videotron.ca; www.fransgard.dk).

Sensor Controls "Chicken Door"

A machinist and an electrical engineer teamed up to create an automatic door to let chickens go in and out of a hen house after they "got tired of feeding the wildlife" when they forgot to shut the door at night.

After looking at wood sliding doors on the market, they decided they could come up with something better.

The Pullet-Shut Automatic Door is made of aluminum so it won't rot or rust. The door moves on a hinge avoiding the problem of binding slides. It has no switches that can fail - it's programmed to open and close with a magnetic sensor.

The system runs off a 12-volt battery for up to a year without recharging, and programming is simple.

"Hold the magnet over the red circle at the time you want it to open in the morning," Tony Andric, co-inventor, explains. "That evening hold the magnet over the red circle again when you want it to close, and it's done. It will open and close every day at those times."

The set times won't be affected if you use the magnet to open or shut the door anytime such as during a storm. To reset open and close times, simply put the magnet in the red circle for 10 seconds.

The door can be adjusted to open as wide as you want, Andric adds. As a safety feature, if a chicken is in the way when the door is set to close, the door will close a minute later.

Installation is simple. Cut an 11 by 15-in. hole, attach the door with screws through pre-drilled holes in the frame, place the con-



Automatic door is programmed to close at night and open in the morning.

troller box above the door, and hook it up to a battery.

"The door opens out, but we would be happy to customize it to open inward," Andric says. "It's also water resistant, unless the door is completely underwater."

Andric and his business partner, Mark George, are building the doors out of solid 7/8-in. aluminum and sell them for \$180 plus shipping through their website, which includes a YouTube video of the door in operation.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pullet-Shut Automatic Door, 5438 East FM 20, Lockhart, Texas 78644 (ph 512 376-0003; www.chickendoors.com).

Poly Washer Helps End Hitch Wear

Simply inserting a heavy-duty poly washer between a hitch and drawbar will greatly reduce hitch wear and tear, says Lundell Plastics about its ultra high molecular weight (UHMW) polyethylene HitchSavers.

UHMW has the highest known impact strength of any plastic, plus high resistance to abrasion against a wide variety of metals. UHMW is more resistant to abrasion than abrasion resistant steel and nearly twice as abrasion resistant as stainless steel.

The simple, but effective product is available in five pin sizes ranging from 1 to 2 in. They are priced at \$5 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lundell Plastics Corporation, 400 West Market St., Odebolt, Iowa 51458 (ph toll free 877 367-7659; vancel@lundellplastics.com; www.lundellplastics.com).



Heavy-duty poly washer installs between hitch and drawbar to reduce wear and tear.