



Jeffrey climbs to the top of his feed holding tank. The auger arrangement takes feed up and in automatically.

TODAY'S FEEDLOT:

NO PLACE FOR

POTENT MEDICINE AGAINST SHIPPING FEVER



Have Terramycin Crumbles ready when cattle arrive. Use them to prevent shipping fever...or treat if it has already hit.

These Crumbles are what a medicine should be. They carry the full power of Terramycin in them.

Terramycin® is the broad-range antibiotic that fights as many kinds of germs as any of today's antibiotics or drugs possibly can.

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And that is just what you need against shipping fever . . . a complicated problem that takes a hard-working treatment to lick.

You also get high levels of vitamins A and D. That's extra important because cattle coming into feedlot may be deficient in vitamin A. These high levels build up supplies and help cattle go on to good gains.

Terramycin Crumbles are no trick to use. Top-dress them right over the first feed when cattle arrive . . . or you can mix them in. Just follow the directions on the bag.

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Many cattle feeders would like to have plans for the "ideal" system for feeding cattle, but experience has shown that the feedlot must be built to fit each farm.

"You need to spend two-thirds of your time planning and one-third of your time building a feedlot," says M. L. Mumgaard, agricultural engineer at the University of Nebraska, who has helped design many feedlots.

Take the feedlot on the Louis Jeffrey farm north of Waverly, Nebraska. Jeffrey decided to feed cattle so he called in Mumgaard and Allen Boettcher, Lancaster County (Nebraska) Extension Agent.

Jeffrey used some ingenuity in developing the self-feeder. He started out by dumping a load of sand on the concrete floor. He molded it into a cone, something like an inverted ice cream cone. Then, he poured concrete on top and fashioned a manger around the outside at the bottom. A discarded water tank served as a form for

the circular manger. After the cement hardened, an old grain storage bin was placed on top with the inverted cone in the center. Mixed feed is then augered from the nearby grain storage unit to the top of the storage bin. As the cattle eat the feed, the mixed grain falls down in the manger.

"We've had a little trouble with wet corn sticking inside, but on such occasions we just go up and push it down with a hoe," said Jeffrey.

The large self-feeder holds enough grain so that Jeffrey has to grind only twice a week for the 170 head now on feed. The feed mixing and grinding operation is completely automatic except for handling the hay.

"We discussed building a unit that would supply the exact amount of hay needed in the ration, but it seemed too complicated," Jeffrey said. "After mixing feed a few times, we found that if a man put in as much hay as possible, it would be about the right amount."

Supplement, corn and milo flow into the grinder from overhead bins equipped with sloping floors. Jeffrey was feeding corn and milo last winter, but is now feeding just corn in the mixture with supplement and alfalfa hay. After grinding, the feed mixture is augered right to the self-feeder through an overhead pipe.

\$600 Self-Feeder

"We don't have a fancy feeding set-up here, but it works and it only cost us about \$600," Jeffrey said. "We buy plain cattle and the last lot gained about three pounds per day."

Before considering the feedlot itself, you should have a sketch of the farmstead. It should show actual dimensions, topography, drainage, permanent buildings and fences, utilities such as electricity, water, sewage and gas, drives to fields and pastures, number of livestock.

After deciding on the actual number of livestock you want to feed, you need to determine shelter and lot space needs. In general, the following requirements are necessary for various types of feedlot conditions: (1) good drainage, unsurfaced—200 to 300 square feet per animal; (2) average drainage, unsurfaced—300 to 400 square feet per animal; (3) concreted—50 to 70 square feet per animal; (4) slope concreted—2 to 4 feet per 100 feet away from farmstead to get adequate drainage.

Alleys in the feedlot should be at least 12 feet wide, while main alleys with heavy traffic should be 16 feet wide. Alleys should be all weather with concrete or heavy gravel.

Next, decide on the amounts and kinds of feeds you plan to use. Once the requirements are known, a decision must be made on the form in which various kinds of feed will be stored and the area needed. In regard to feed storage, you will need to consider type, size, location, processing and delivery.

Feeder and bunk space will vary depending on the feeding program. Here are the space requirements: self-feeding grain only—3 to 4 inches of feeder per head; self-feeding silo or free access hay and silage—4 to 6 inches of manger per head; not self-fed (hay, silage, grain)—20 to 24 inches per animal. An automatic heated waterer can handle 80 head per foot of trough.

Shade should also be provided. Cattle should be supplied with 20 to 40 square feet per animal. Build it 10 to 12 feet high. A north-south orientation of the long axis permits sun-drying under shade, Mumgaard points out.

There are three main ways of feeding: mechanical bunk, self-unloading wagon and self-feeder. The system you choose may depend somewhat on the types of feeds you plan to use and equipment already available.

Finally, you need to consider bedding, storage and manure handling and livestock handling facilities. These also are important in developing an efficient feedlot.