

# Solar-Powered, Automatic Cattle Feeder

A new cattle feeder tells cattle when to eat by emitting an audio signal, doing so multiple times throughout the day. Dave Barney, president of Service Line, was looking for a better way to feed his own cattle and the Automatic Solar-Powered Cattle Feeder was the result.

“We built the first unit to handle smaller herds of up to 10 full-size animals,” says Steve Meyer of Service Line. “The demand was there, so we added a larger unit for herds of up to 20 head. The feeder can handle greater numbers if feeding calves or smaller size animals.”

The smaller feeder is 6 ft. wide, 9 ft. long and 8 ft. tall. The larger one is circular in design with an 8-ft. diameter and an 8-ft. height. Both feeders have hopper capacities of 3,000 lbs. (Ask for Barney to discuss price.)

The Hanen feeders are fabricated from heavy-duty steel and are 100 percent powder-coated for durability. Individual calf guards can be installed. Optional vision blockers are also available, ensuring separate feeding stations for each animal.

An attached battery is recharged by a solar panel, making the programmable feeder fully portable. It’s designed to be picked up and moved by a tractor with forks. Once in place, it can be programmed to deliver desired amounts of feed up to 6 times per day.

“I’m dedicated to providing controlled nutrition that results in high-quality animals,” says Barney.

The company points to studies that show a balanced diet evenly distributed throughout the day creates a calmer animal on less feed without sacrificing growth.

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Solar-powered cattle feeder tells cattle when to eat by emitting an audio signal multiple times throughout the day. Both rectangular and circular models (below left) are available. The company recently came out with a smaller model (below right) for cattle, horses, pigs, sheep or goats. It mounts to a wall and is not intended for outdoor use. Can feed up to 6 times per day.



## Electric Fence Gate Needs No Insulators

“We had problems with insulators and wires breaking on our electric fence gate. So I placed a 3-ft. length of 18-in. dia. plastic field tile over a wood post at each end of the gate. Vertical pvc tubes in the gate hold the wire, eliminating the need for insulators,” says Ryan Dahlman, Bad Axe, Mich.

The 20-ft. wide gate is made from 4 strands of high tensile wire, which run through holes drilled into vertical pvc tubes spaced about 5 ft. apart. The wire strands wrap around deep grooves in the tile at one end of the gate. “After looping the wire



around the tile we tighten it and then clamp it off. No staples or insulators are needed,” says Dahlman.

The wires fasten onto a pvc tube at the opposite end of the gate. A pair of thick wire loops wrap around the tile and slip over the top and bottom of the pvc tube to keep the gate standing upright.

To open the gate Dahlman slips the top wire loop off the pvc tube, then lifts the tube

out of the bottom loop and walks the gate open.

“We’ve used this system for 3 years and really like it,” says Dahlman. “Deer used to run into the gate wires and pull the insulators out, but that can’t happen now. Also, crimping sleeves on both sides of the pvc tubes keep the wires tightly in place so we can’t accidentally overtighten the wires and break them.”