Portable Hay Feeder

Supplies:

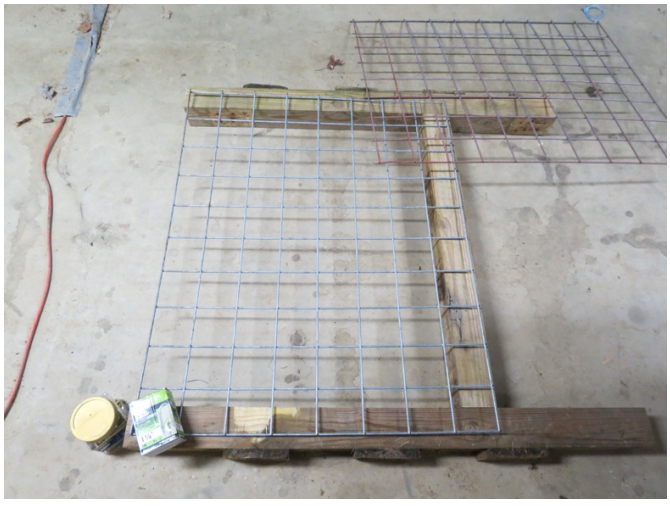
2 – 4x4	4’ (side up rights)
1 – 4x4	3’ (bottom cross beam)
2 – 40”x 32” (approx.)	goat panel or fencing (4x4 square)
2 – 2x4	4’ (for roof)
3 – 2x4	45” (for roof)

Roofing material 4’x 4’ cut and use what is avail. (Not to overhang framework of roof by more than an inch or so.)
U nails (1 ¼”)
Wood screws (3”)
Roofing screws (1”)
Wire (to secure feeder to T-post)

2 – hinges	3”
1 – slide lock	3”

2 – T-posts

This is just an idea that we came up with here at the farm, so you can feed hay outside of the barn without it getting wet. Feel free to modify as needed. It’s has continued to work very well and pretty much all the supplies we used to create this feeder came from scraps around the farm or recycled past projects.



Step 1 – create the frame.
Take the 2 – 4x4x4’ sections and lay the 4x4x3’ as shown (the 3’ section is 18 inches from the ground). Use the woodscrews to secure frame together. (you will need to place screws at an angle)

Step 2 – if you need to cut your fencing, do it now. You don’t want any of the edges of the fencing to overlap any of the wood. After its cut, attach to frame using the U nails. Both sides.

Step 3 – create the roof frame
Take the 3 - 45” pieces of 2x4 and those will be on the ‘inside’ of the 2x4x4’. (on this diagram we substituted a 4x4 for the center beam, again we used scrap from around the farm) Make sure when you are placing the center beam it is exactly in the middle of the frame so the hinges will allow the roof to preform properly. Secure the frame with the wood screws.

Step 4 – attach the hinges. Here is where you need a second person to hold the frame steady unless you have a device to secure it for you. We used the woodscrews here as well.

Step 5 – attach the slide lock. This can be tricky and if you can find a better ‘locking’ device, use what you can. This works for us. You are going to need a scrap piece of 2x4 by 3” or so that will be attached to the roof. Make sure the piece is flush with the 4x4 where the slide lock goes. You can see by the photo how we made it work for us. Just use the screws that came with the lock.

Step 6 – Attach roofing material to roof frame. In these diagrams we used 2 – 4'x26" metal panels that overlap slightly in the center. (we took these off an old building) We used roofing screws as we have found they hold better than nails and they have a rubber washer already attached. It's best if you lay the entire unit down, unlock the roof and lay down as if the unit was open and you were sliding hay in.

Unit is complete, now take it to where you want to set it up. We just found a spot in the field, place one T-post in the ground, get someone to help you stand the unit up. We place one T-post on one side of the unit and the second on the opposite side to assist with movement caused by weather or the animals. You have to pound the T-post in pretty far so it will clear the roof. Once the first post is in, stand you unit up and mark where the second post needs to be. Place that post in and have someone help you maneuver the unit into its position. We use 2 pieces of wire on each side to secure it. (so far it's held with no issues)

*Side note: if you have any metal roofing overhanging, it's best to take some needle nose pliars and bend it under.

We've made a feeder double this size using all the same concepts, but its harder to maneuver. To move it, all you have to do is pull the T-posts. At some point we may try to put this unit on sleds, but for now, this works great. It will hold about 4 flakes of hay.

Created by Jeff and Nona Cullen of The Abandoned Dog