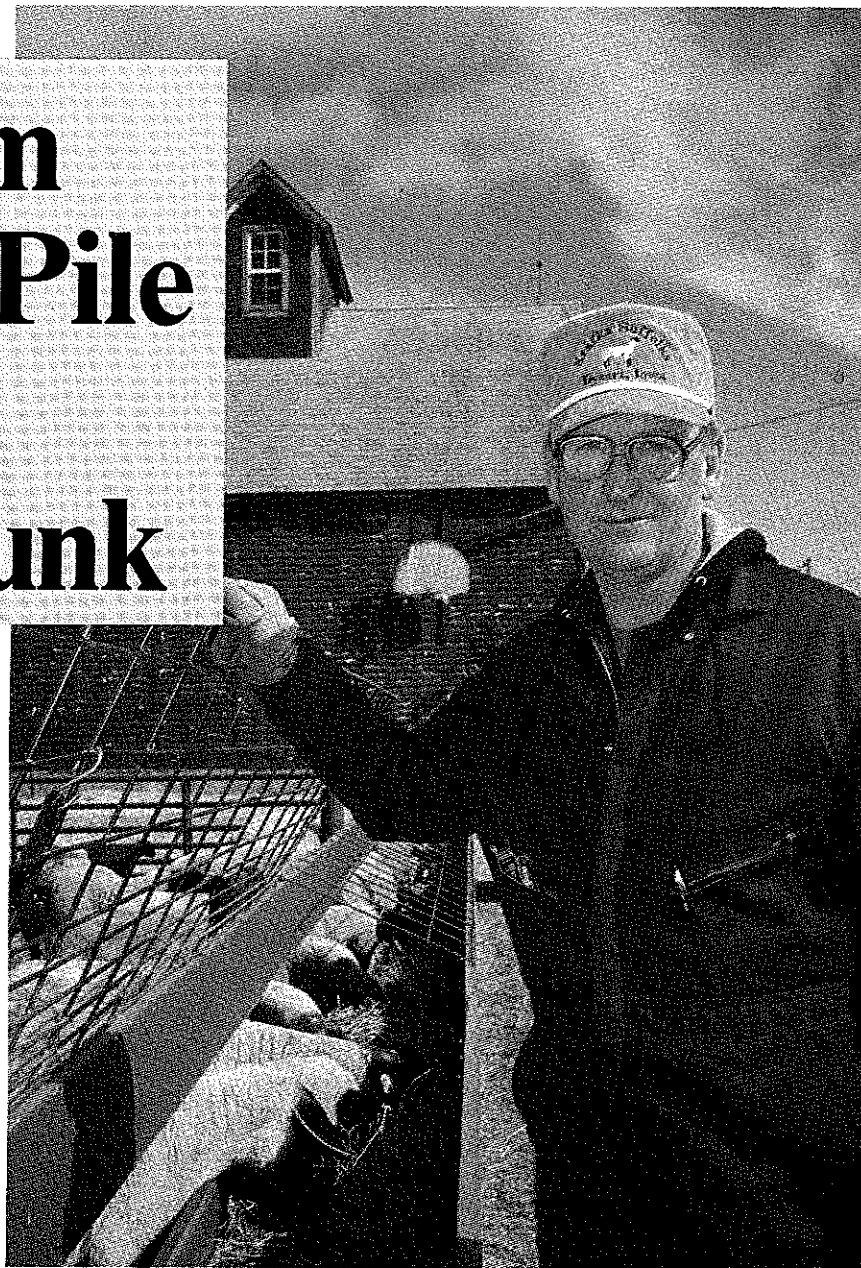


# From Scrap Pile to Feedbunk

**This producer's motto is: "Don't get in a hurry throwing things away."**



*Rich Krafska holds the wire "lid" he built on his new sheep feedbunks.*

Maybe there's one farmstead in this whole world neater than Rich and Caroline Krafska's operation but it would be a close call. From the fastidiously graded driveway and precisely groomed lawns to the straight, tight fences and comfortable, cozy-warm lamb nursery, their farm is a showplace of good management.

With the help of Ron Parizek, who has worked for the Krafskas for 20 years, the farmstead near Dysart runs like a well-oiled machine. On a recent afternoon, the men efficiently divided their time between checking lambs, building a fitting stand in the fully supplied shop, preparing for an April club

lamb sale, loading farm equipment, and helping customers who came to sell wool.

The Krafskas farm 450 acres of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa hay, and average 200 lambs from 120 Suffolk ewes. Parizek works much of the season on a custom spraying business they have operated for two decades and the wool business keeps Caroline busy in addition to her job as production manager for Car-Pac.

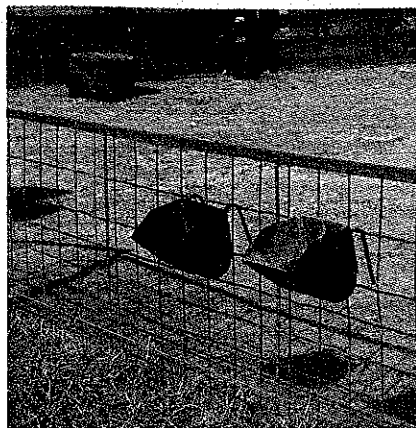
Throughout the farm are Krafska's inventions and modifications. Most of the clever devices or tools are made from used materials or junked items. The farmstead has gates made of used well pipe and hog panel, mineral feeders made of

old elevator buckets, and a feed unit with several different sections welded and angled to allow easy feed dispersal to different pens. His latest creations are feedbunks made from old elevators.

"Wish I'd thought of this one long before. We use old elevators that we get for nothing or for junk prices. The last one I bought for a Texas fifth," laughs Krafska.

Wider elevators work best as feeders. Krafska prefers elevators 20 in. wide and 6 in. deep. He and Ron remove the wheels, chain, and angle iron.

"The front side of the elevator is covered with steel siding on the front. The side facing the sheep is also lined so they don't catch a foot



*Angle iron was bolted to these old elevator cups, or buckets, to make mineral feeders that are portable and easily hung at any height on a fence.*

in the opening between the bunk and ground. It also keeps dirt and manure from under the bunk," says Krafka

Costs for building the new bunks are minimal because most parts are scraps or extras. The steel siding used for the feeders was left over from a shed renovation. The solid, sturdy feedbunks are secured on a lime base by old bridge planks nailed to the frame of the elevator. Braces used for the bunks were redesigned from the angle iron that was originally on the elevator.

One of the most ingenious features of the feedbunk is the hog panel wire fencing that is bolted to the 2x8-in. frame. It allows grain to be poured into the bunk without lifting the wire, yet for feeding hay, the wire lifts easily. It works very well to keep spray lambs from jumping into the bunks and springing out of the pen.

"You can use the feeder for grain or hay just by raising the hog panel. We don't have much cost in them. More time than anything. We build them to last," points out Krafka.

The long, straight lines of the versatile feeders make cleaning pens easier. The bunks also take up less pen space. But the best advantage is that feeding can be done from outside the pen.

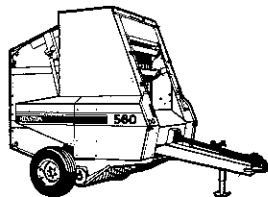
"No more pressure from dozens of ewes pushing against you. And you don't have to keep an eye out for the buck," says Krafka.

He now has four of the bunks and plans to build more as he finds the time and old elevators.

"Guess you don't want to get in a hurry throwing things away. You can always find a use for them." ■

# All New for '88

Round Baler

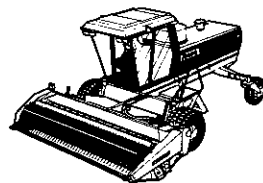


560

550

530

Self-Propelled Windrower

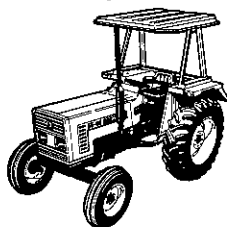


8400

8200

8100

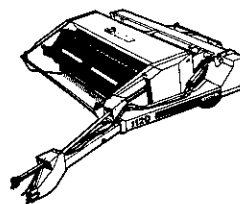
Utility Tractor



55-46

65-46

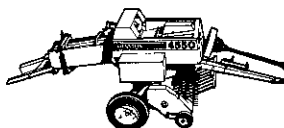
Mower-Conditioner



1120

1110

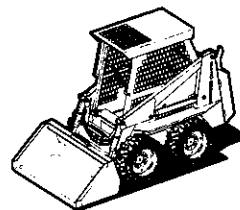
Small Square Baler



4550

4570

Skid Steer Loader



SL 30

SL 20

SL 10

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