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## COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS

Canada Plan Service, a Canadian federal/provincial organization, promotes the transfer of technology through factsheets, design aids, and construction drawings that show how to plan and build modern farm structures and equipment.

For more information, contact your provincial agricultural engineer or extension advisor.

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## LARGE ROUND BALE SHEEP FEEDER

PLAN 4629

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This convenient, portable feeder for large bales is designed to minimize waste, yet allow animals to clean up most of the feed before more is added.

Each feeder will hold two bales, laid on their side (do not lay bales on end). The feeders will feed 200-250 ewes, and last two weeks between filling. For a smaller group make a half-size feeder for one bale. If both hay and straw are being fed, place hay in one feeder and straw in another; do not mix hay and straw in one feeder as they are not consumed at the same rate.

The main feature is the movable feed gate which is suspended between the end panels. As the bale is eaten, the feed gate is moved a notch forward until all the feed is cleaned up. Blocks at floor level prevent the feed panel from being swung outward, and the panel is easily removed, if necessary, to assist filling. The feed gate should be tied down at each end to prevent it being lifted off the deck, and thus allowing an animal to get its head wedged under the gate.

Build the feeder platform of plank on wood skids, preferably pressure treated. The feeder is portable, and can be towed to the hay for loading. For winter use, lay small poles or logs under the skids to reduce freeze-down of the feeder, or at least make it easier to pry the skids loose.

End panels must be rigidly braced, best done by a brace and plywood gussets, as illustrated. Cutting 32" high end panels from a standard sheet of plywood will be least wasteful if the sheet is cut in three 32" lengths. For the ends, the 4 ft x 32" centre piece and narrower side pieces are spliced as shown. The remaining 24" x 32" sections are cut diagonally for the brace gussets.

Problems and Limitations: A problem with all large bale feeders is that lambs can be crushed against the feed fence, and small lambs squeeze through the feed gate openings. As ewes feed at the base of the large bales, an overhanging "mushroom" shape is created. There is always danger of this collapsing onto and suffocating a lamb that is caught below. Operators should be aware of these conditions and knock down overhanging feed if this poses a hazard.