

# FEEED FOR THOUGHHT

News For Cattlemen From Suga-Lik® A Product Of U.S. Sugar Corp.

## Right Equipment for the Right Job!

*Terry Weaver*

My Case pocketknife is more than a knife! It's been a screwdriver, tin snips, and a wire stripper. It's also dug out slivers, peeled oranges and cleaned sparkplugs. This amazing, but often dull instrument can have many uses but it works best to cut things. These other "uses" of my knife have special tools that do the job better.

Same with your liquid supplement equipment! Many types of tanks can make-do, various kinds of pumps can work, but having the right equipment, set up properly, makes supplementing your cattle easier, faster, and less costly. Replacement, maintenance, or repair cost of poor,



improperly installed equipment can quickly exceed the additional cost of purchasing the right equipment the first time. Let's separate liquid supplement equipment into categories and discuss further. If you get supplement delivered into your lick tanks by a dealer, you may disregard the storage and pumping sections.

### **Liquid Supplement Storage**

Size is an issue; depending on your estimated daily usage during peak supplement season. For bulk loads, the capacity should be for a 24-ton load (approximately 4200 gallons) one week before you anticipate needing it. For a 500 cow operation that would be at least a 6,000 gallon tank. You should avoid "cutting it close" and running out of supplement. Liquid supplement can be effectively stored in steel, concrete, or poly tanks. Cone bottom or dished bottom tanks with the discharge at the lowest point minimizes frequency of cleaning. **Do NOT** use tanks that have contained heavy metal products such as leaded gasoline. A large drain at the lowest point on the tank facilitates yearly maintenance or

cleaning. All liquid supplement tanks should be vented with a minimum of two 3" diameter vents. Suga-Lik® Liquid Supplements and molasses are high dry matter, viscous materials. Constant temperatures below 70°F may require some products to be stored in heated tanks. Conversely, never exceed 115°F because charring or caramelization can occur.

### **Pumping and Plumbing**

Many ranches use a gravity system; the storage tank is located atop wooden, concrete, or metal support stands. The liquid supplement is gravity-fed into a delivery vessel, and then gravity fed again into feeders. Large outlet pipes and valves at least 6" in diameter are recommended. This may be the simplest, most inexpensive system; although without a pump it doesn't allow for helpful recirculation. Tanks, on or below ground level, need to have a pump system to fill the delivery tanks. Gear pumps are recommended and should be selected based on flow requirements. These pumps can be either gas-engine or electric motor driven, positioned as close to the storage tank as possible and below the level of the tank to insure adequate pump feed. The suction line between the pump and storage tank should be larger than the pump inlet but no less than 3" in diameter. Piping can be mild steel, galvanized steel or PVC. Gate-type valves are recommended. Return lines are recommended so that product can be recirculated.

### **Delivery Tanks**

Delivery vessels can come in many shapes, sizes and styles. Most ranchers mount tanks on trucks or heavy-duty wagons pulled by tractors. They either gravity feed or pump liquid supplement with PTO or gas-engine driven pumps into feeders. Truck mounted tanks are faster and more efficient but have some disadvantages in wet weather when pastures become boggy. Some ranchers solve this by using old, all-terrain military trucks. Smaller producers might use a tank that fits into the bed of a pickup and gravity feed to their feeders. The important requirements for the delivery tanks are that they be strong enough to withstand the sloshing of product across rough pastures and have a system for ease of filling, emptying and cleaning.

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## Feeders

Trough style is only limited by the rancher's imagination. I have seen everything from old bathtubs to cut-up culverts and tires. I admire the ingenuity. These are usually cheap and available, however, one calf lost because he gets turned upside down in a bathtub can cost the operation. Commercial companies produce liquid feed troughs designed especially for feeding cattle. Open top trough and lick-wheel feeders come in a variety of sizes and styles. Poly feeders seem to be very durable, safe, and easy to handle. Size and style depends upon your situation. Lick-wheel tanks are slightly more costly than open top troughs, but keep wildlife (i.e. wild hogs) out and protect the supplement from the weather. It is important to move the feeders frequently to keep the denuded areas to a minimum.

Using the right equipment, setup properly, is the basis for a job done well. Use the right equipment for the right job! If you would like more information, just give us a call. We look forward to earning your business.

**Call the dealer nearest you  
or 800-940-7253 or visit  
[www.suga-lik.com](http://www.suga-lik.com)**



## It's Truly Important- Feed from a Certified Facility

*Pat Whidden, PAS*

This past December's "Washington BSE cow incident" got the media all fired up! Most news purveyors were on a mad cow alert!! At this writing (mid January), I hope that it's the last time the media has any reason to report about BSE. Our government (USDA and FDA) and industry trade groups (NCBA and AFIA) have done commendable work helping minimize damage to our beef industry.

The recent multi-year risk analysis published by Harvard University says, "The U.S. is highly resistant to any introduction of BSE." Further it said, "Measures taken by the government and industry make the U.S. robust against the spread of BSE to animals or humans should it be introduced." In addition to recent new rules regarding downer animals, perhaps the most significant measure was federal FDA's 1997 rule banning the feeding of most mammalian proteins to ruminants. Shortly after that, many of you asked for and received assurance from your feed suppliers that this was so.

**Can you know for certain?** You can be darn sure if your supplier is FCI certified. The Facility Certification Institute (FCI) is an independent, third party certification organization (you might think of it sort of like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval) for the feed industry. Your feed supplier may not want to use banned protein products; he may tell you he's not. But to be surer, he should be inspected and certified. The FCI inspection process is more rigorous than the FDA inspection. FCI inspection is annual, whereas the government's isn't. If your feed supplier displays the FCI seal, you can be assured he's had to pass a stern inspection of his facilities, processes, procedures and paper work.

As a cattleman, you should also understand the rule. For example, if you're feeding bulk commodities, you should be sure the truck did not haul any prohibited protein products. I'd advise against feeding pet food, poultry feed, and poultry litter to cattle. You should assure yourself that you're doing all you can to be a responsible feeder.

I'd advise you to look for the FCI seal. That's one way to know for certain. For a list of FCI approved facilities, check the website [www.certifiedfacility.org](http://www.certifiedfacility.org). By feeding products produced in an FCI-approved facility, you can safely assure your customers that you're abiding by the rule.

## DEALERS

### Arcadia

Walpole Feed & Supply  
863-763-6905

### Branford

Mayo Fertilizer & Farm Supply  
386-294-2024

### Bronson

Owens Liquid Feed  
352-486-2442

### DeFuniak Springs

West FL Farmers Co-op  
850-892-5522

### DeLeon Springs

Phil McClure's Feeds  
352-563-9884  
386-734-0095

### Lake Butler

Lake Butler Farm Center  
386-496-3921

### Lakeland

Kathleen Cash Feed  
863-858-3123

### Mayo

Mayo Fertilizer & Farm Supply  
386-294-2024

### Myakka City

Myakka Farm Supply  
941-322-1783

### Okahumpka

Lasher Milling Co.  
352-787-4821

### Okeechobee

Walpole Feed & Supply  
863-763-6905



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