

4 x 4 Plywood Slow Feeder for Grass Hay

On Saturday, October 8th I spent the afternoon building a four by four foot feeder box with a stainless 2 x 4 inch grate. The total build time was about three hours and the cost of material was around \$160 dollars.



The building of the box was straight forward and required one and a half sheets of $\frac{3}{4}$ cdx exterior plywood and four 8 foot 2x4's. I cut one sheet into four 2 x 4 foot sides and used the other $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet for the bottom. $\frac{3}{4}$ cdx plywood is \$20 a sheet at home depot.

For the grill I used a "Best of Show" dog kennel panel, stainless steel. These are available at D&B and can be purchased one panel at a time. The panels are 5 x 6 foot. You could also use hog panels which have 4x4 inch openings and come in 5 x 16 foot panels for \$20.

The 4x4 inch opening may let your stock eat to fast as it would be much easier to get mouthfuls of hay. I wanted the small spacing so went with the dog panel. I also used a lot of 2 1/2 inch deck screws to put it all together.



The bottom sits on 2x4 that I secured to the inside of the sides and has a 7/8 hole drilled so that I can remove it easily. I also put 2x4 around the top to add strength and protect the sides from the horses pushing on them. I cut the grill with a saber saw with a metal blade.

It took my guys about 30 seconds to figure out how to pull hay through the grill. The box will hold two 65 pound bale of grass hay and still have about 8 inches of box side above

the grill. This sort of feeder works with grass hay; I am not sure how well it would do with other types.



I will paint it in the future, but was interested trying it out!



No waste and it takes all day instead of 90 minutes to eat a bail of hay. When they are through all there is left is a bit of hay dust.