

BY JENNIFER SHOWALTER

that's an improvement

Take a Load Off

*... or put one on
with these great
pasture-load ideas*



The LT Dock/Groundload Conversion device is welded or bolted to the back of a pot or straight trailer. It allows the trailer to be either chute or ground accessible, which works great for pasture situations like this.

Today's cattle industry relies heavily on the use of potbelly and large straight trailers to transport cattle both locally and across the country. These large trailers most certainly save time, money, and have helped pull the cattle industry together over the years. Pots and straight trailers are great for moving cattle from one facility dock to the next, but in pasture situations there may not be a permanent chute to work from.

There have been several portable chutes designed over the years to help alleviate this problem. These chutes get the job done, but still require some time and effort to move from one place to the next and to set up.

A NEW DESIGN

LeRoy Stotts, a rancher in Northwest Oklahoma who runs a cow-calf operation and grazes stockers, became fed up



The LT Dock/Groundload Conversion in 'transport' mode.

with the extra work and time that went along with using his pot trailer to move cattle between pastures. So he got to work and designed the LT Dock/Groundload Conversion.

Since it was patented (U.S. Pat. No. 7,152,726), Stotts has sold his LT Dock/Groundload Conversions all across the United States, Canada, and has even had inquiries from Australia.



The unit can be set up by one person in less than 60 seconds by simply swinging the lower piece around and connecting it to the top section.

The LT Dock/Groundload Conversion in 'load/unload' mode.



This device simply attaches to the back of a pot or straight trailer by bolts or by being welded on. It allows the trailer to be either chute or ground accessible, and makes it so one person can easily load and unload cattle without a separate chute.

The conversion easily converts between dock and groundload in less



Cattle load easy onto a pot straight off the ground.

than 60 seconds and only adds an additional three feet of length to a trailer. Stotts makes both aluminum and steel conversions, but 99.9% of the ones he sells are steel simply because of a cheaper price tag. The weight difference between the two is reasonable; the steel conversions weigh around 1,400 pounds, while the aluminum conversions weigh approximately 950 pounds.

The dockload floor of the LT Dock/Groundload Conversion is aluminum, which makes it lighter for lifting, and is set at the standard height to match up with sale barn and feedlot loading docks. The groundload floor is welded in steel and is set at 14 to 15 inches from the ground, the common stock trailer height. The sides of the conversion are enclosed part of the way up to keep livestock feet in, and open on the top so livestock can see daylight. The open top also allows the handlers access to the cattle. The conversions are designed to fit anything from fat pot doors to stocker feeder pot doors and come equipped with D-rings for panel attachments, new stop-turn lights, and rubber bumpers.

Stotts finds that the LT Dock/Groundload Conversion saves him time, fuel, and money on his own ranch. He doesn't have to worry about giving up his hauling capacity, needing a separate chute, or having an extra hand available to help out. The conversion also gives him the option of picking the shortest waiting line when both dock and groundload facilities are available at such places as stockyards and feedyards.

Being a rancher himself, Stotts, knows that every penny counts. "Ranchers are trying to cut expenses every way they can and that gives me satisfaction, because I made the first LT Dock/Groundload Conversion for that very reason. One person can go and load or unload cattle without the expense of a second pickup or second person to bring a portable loading chute. It has saved us so much time and money on our own ranch that I can't imagine being without it."

Check out a demonstration video at www.LTgroundload.com.

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