

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



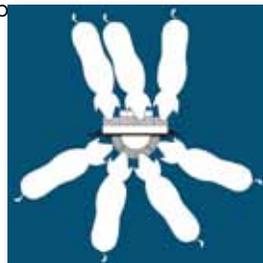
Osborne's Big Wheel Hog Feeders are engineered to improve feed-to-gain ratios while radically reducing waste. The round trough provides pigs with a less stressful eating experience and 360° access to fresh feed at all times. The mechanical flow system and our exclusive Feed Flow Control make flow rates easy to set, maintain, and reset.

1 WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL FEEDERS AND A BIG WHEEL?

Rectangular feeders force pigs into close contact with one another. The round design of Big Wheel Feeders spread pigs radially around the trough, providing more standing-room space and less physical contact. Less physical contact means less wasteful competition. Linear trough space can never be fully used with rectangular feeders and Big Wheel Feeders occupy less space.

Unlike rectangular feeders, Big Wheel Feeders operate mechanically. This means that in order for feed to flow, pigs must turn the multi-spoke "big wheel" inside the trough. Rectangular feeders operate by gravity and require making frequent adjustments to the opening between the feed hopper and trough as pigs grow.

Big Wheel feeders, however, can be set once at the beginning of a turn, and that's it! Pigs dispense the amount of feed they require by naturally playing with the feed wheel. Mechanical flow is self-regulating. If there is available feed in the trough, delivery of additional feed into the trough is stopped because the wheel becomes more difficult to turn.



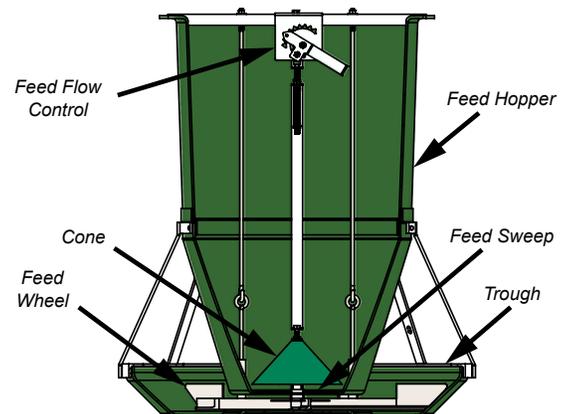
Drawing depicts proportional size of 280-lb. hogs on an Osborne feeder and a 4-hole rectangular feeder.

2 HOW DO BIG WHEEL FEEDERS REDUCE WASTED FEED?

With feed prices increasing to record highs, feed has skyrocketed to being the most expensive part of raising hogs. Big Wheel Feeders eliminate feed waste because of their mechanical-flow design. The rate of which feed is dispensed into the trough is set by the position of the feed cone inside the hopper. This means that if pigs are not rotating the wheel, no feed is being dispensed into the trough. The continual rotation of the feed wheel agitates feed, preventing pigs from sorting feed, feed piling, and trough bridging almost completely. The round trough prevents feed from building up in corners and becoming stagnant and foul.

3 HOW DO YOU ADJUST BIG WHEEL FEEDERS AND HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO READJUST?

Adjusting the feed flow of Big Wheel Feeders is easy with our exclusive Feed Flow Control that raises and lowers the cone in the feed hopper. The height of the cone - not gravity - regulates the rate of feed flow. Mechanical flow delivery is self-regulating and is caused by the unique combination of close hopper-to-trough spacing and the location of the cone over the feed hole working together to eliminate gravity-flow. Because of this, most users are able to set the feed flow once based on feed type, grind, and moisture content, and forget about it! Pigs quickly learn how to dispense feed by playing with the "big wheel" in the trough.



4 IS THERE A BIG WHEEL FEEDER AVAILABLE FOR EACH STAGE OF PRODUCTION?

Big Wheel feeders are available for virtually all stages of production. Nursery feeders feature easy-to-turn "big wheels" for starting pigs as early as 10 days. Wean-to-finish and finishing feeders are available with large trough divider openings for market weight hogs and more capacity in the feed hopper. Single-space ad libitum feeders are available for farrowing sows or testing individual animals. Most models work well both indoors and outdoors. Request our Big Wheel Feeder catalog for a complete list of models.

5**WHERE SHOULD BIG WHEEL FEEDERS BE POSITIONED INSIDE A PEN?**

Big Wheel feeders work well in the center of a pen or in the fenceline between two pens. Osborne has a variety of heavy-duty adapters available for feeders positioned in the fenceline, or adapters can be custom designed to fit any opening. Wherever you put them, Big Wheel Feeders outperform conventional rectangular feeders by allowing animals to eat with less stress and finish faster.

6**WHAT TYPE OF FEED CAN BE USED IN BIG WHEEL FEEDERS?**

Big Wheel Feeders accept nearly every type of available feedstuffs. In nursery and finishing feeders, bump bar agitators continually agitate feed in the feed hopper without damaging the texture of different feed types. The rate of which feed is dispensed into the trough is set by the position of the feed cone only. This means that high-moisture or high-fat feeds flow through easily. Bump bar agitators, available for every model, prevent nearly all types of feed from bridging inside the hopper.

7**WHY ARE TROUGH LIDS NOT USED ON OUTDOOR BIG WHEEL FEEDERS?**

Trough lids are not necessary on Big Wheel Feeders, even after heavy rains, because the self-cleaning action of the feed wheel keeps feed flowing. The position of the feed in the hopper in relation to the trough, accompanied with the Big Wheel's mechanical-flow design, limits moisture from "wicking up" and feed from plugging, sticking, and becoming stale or moldy.

For feeders stocked with only a few animals, small weeping holes may be drilled through the feed trough to help prevent water from overloading the trough. When stocked with an ample number of animals, however, moisture rarely causes any plugging issues.

8**DO THE LACTATION FEEDERS OPERATE DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER BIG WHEELS?**

All Big Wheel Feeders are designed with mechanical-flow feed delivery, including the single-space feeders for lactating sows. Rather than a cone inside the hopper, a corrosion-resistant disk is used to offset downward pressure and eliminate gravity-flow, the waste-saving feature found in mechanical-flow feed delivery. A manual adjustment system is also available for Big Wheel lactation feeders when manual adjustment or limit feeding is required.

9**HOW DO I TRAIN ANIMALS TO EAT FROM A BIG WHEEL FEEDER?**

Feeding pigs with Big Wheel Feeders is easy. When starting animals on Big Wheel Feeders, set the Feed Flow Control to a setting of 1.5-2 and manually turn the feed wheel until feed begins to flow into the trough to ensure there is no issue with flowability. Manually scoop feed into the trough and fill for first use. As the first trough full is eaten, pigs learn through play that the "big wheel" dispenses feed. Adjust the Feed Flow Control after the first trough full is eaten based on the number of animals and type of feed. Exact adjustment will vary based on feed grind, moisture content, and animal size.

10**ARE TROUGH LIDS AVAILABLE FOR ALL MODELS OF BIG WHEEL FEEDERS?**

Yes. Hopper lids are available for Big Wheel nursery, wean-to-finish, and finish feeders for outdoor use. Made of the same fiberglass-reinforced composite material, hopper lids for small-capacity feeders include a spring and clip for securing the lid to the top crossbar. For bulk-capacity finish feeders, both galvanized steel lids and fiberglass-reinforced composite lids with hatch door are available.

11**HOW LONG WILL A BIG WHEEL FEEDER LAST? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?**

Each Big Wheel Feeder is made with a combination of corrosion and abrasion-resistant fiberglass-reinforced composite and heavy steel. The properties of the composite hoppers and troughs provide durable performance in highly corrosive environments, like hog confinement buildings, and last for years. The steel parts are available with a high-gloss painted enamel finish, hot-dipped galvanized, zinc plated, or 304 stainless steel. All of the bulk finishing feeders feature hot-dipped galvanized metal parts to slow corrosion from outdoor elements.

Unlike most traditional rectangular feeders, Big Wheel Feeders feature customer-replaceable parts for quick repair as opposed to investing in a new complete feeder.

12**HOW ARE BIG WHEEL FEEDERS HELD IN PLACE?**

Securely anchoring Big Wheel Feeders in place is required to keep them operating at peak performance. Various anchoring options are available whether your feeders are installed on slatted, plastic, or solid concrete floors. An under-feeder galvanized steel skid with tow hooks is available for anchoring bulk finishing feeders and can be used to drag feeders around pastures.

