Frequently Asked

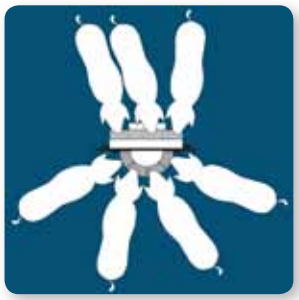
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Big Wheel® Hog Feeders

Osborne Big Wheel® 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 Adjustment Mechanism make flow rates easy to set, maintain and reset.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RECTANGULAR FEEDERS AND ROUND BIG WHEEL FEEDERS?

Rectangular feeders force pigs into close contact with one another. The round design of the 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, as shown in the graphic at right. Big Wheel feeders also occupy less space than comparable rectangular feeders.



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

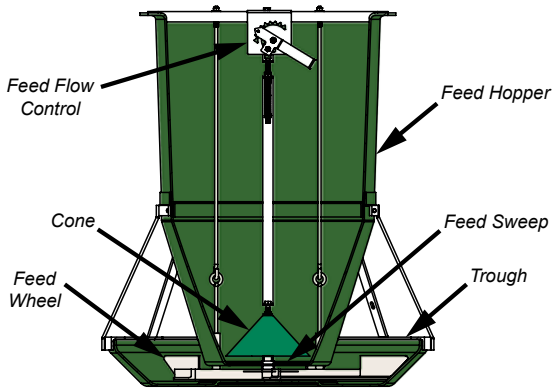
Unlike rectangular feeders, the round Big Wheel feeders operate mechanically. This means that in order for feed to flow, pigs must turn the multi-spoke wheel inside the trough. Rectangular feeders operate by gravity and require making frequent adjustments to the opening between the feed hopper and trough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

WHAT IS THE MAJOR BENEFIT OF USING BIG WHEEL FEEDERS TO PRODUCERS?

With feed prices increasing to record highs, feed has skyrocketed to being the most expensive part of raising hogs. Osborne Big Wheel feeders radically reduce 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.

HOW DOES THE ADJUSTMENT WORK?

Adjusting the feed flow of Big Wheel pig feeders is easy with the patented adjustment system that raises and lowers the cone in the feed hopper. The height of the cone – not gravity – regulates rate of feed flow. Mechanical flow of the Big Wheel feeders 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, many Big Wheel feeder owners are able to set the feed flow once and forget about it! Pigs quickly learn how feed is dispensed by turning the feed wheel in the trough.



WHAT MODELS OF BIG WHEEL HOG FEEDERS ARE AVAILABLE?

The Big Wheel feeders come in many different models. Nursery feeders feature easy-to-turn 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 animals, testing individual animals, and even for feeding show pigs. Outdoor feeders feature the same great benefits of the other Big Wheel models on a larger scale. Request the Big Wheel feeder specification sheet from Osborne to learn more.

HOW MANY PIGS CAN EAT FROM ONE FEEDER?

Osborne has a large selection of Big Wheel hog feeders, including models for nursery, wean-to-finish, finishing, ad-lib sow feeding, and outdoor feeding. The table below shows Osborne's recommended number of pigs per feeder, although exact capacity depends

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on animal and feeder management. Some Big Wheel feeder users report excellent success with even higher numbers of hogs per feeder.

Feeder Model	Feed Capacity*	Number of Pigs
NURSERY		
RN4 (1 bu.)	52 lbs.	25
RN3 (3 bu.)	157 lbs.	60
RN1 (4.5 bu.)	235 lbs.	60
WEAN-TO-FINISH		
RF2FS (4.5 bu.)	235 lbs.	60
FINISH		
RF2 (4.5 bu.)	235 lbs.	60
RF1 (7.5 bu.)	392 lbs.	60
RF3 (15 bu)	784 lbs.	60
OUTDOOR/BULK		
RO25 (25 bu.)	0.65 tons	90
RO45 (45 bu.)	1.2 tons	90
RO65 (65 bu.)	1.7 tons	90
RO85 (85 bu.)	2.2 tons	90
RO105 (105 bu.)	2.7 tons	90

** Feed density based on 42 lbs. per cubic foot.*

WHERE CAN BIG WHEEL PIG FEEDERS BE POSITIONED?

Big Wheel feeders work well in the center of a pen or in the fenceline between two pens with specially designed Fenceline Adapters. The adapters are available in a variety of configurations and attach smoothly to different types of penning. Wherever you put them, Big Wheel Feeders outperform conventional rectangular feeders by allowing animals to eat with less stress and finish faster.

WHAT TYPE OF FEEDSTUFFS 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. Additionally, the bump bar agitators, included with many feeders, prevent nearly all types of feed from bridging inside the hopper.

WHY ARE TROUGH LIDS NOT USED ON BIG WHEEL OUTDOOR/BULK FEEDERS?

Unlike many other outdoor feeders commercially available, Osborne feeders do not require trough lids. Trough lids are not necessary, 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, prevents moisture from "wicking up" and feed from plugging, sticking, and becoming stale or moldy, even in dirt lots.

WHAT ARE BIG WHEEL PIG FEEDERS MADE OF?

Each Big Wheel pig feeder is made with heavy steel in multiple finishes and Osborne's own proprietary RTM-Glas™ fiberglass-reinforced composite plastic. The properties of the plastic provide durable performance in highly corrosive environments, like hog confinement buildings. The metal parts of the many of the feeders can be painted with a high-gloss white enamel, galvanized or made of 304 stainless steel to eliminate rust. All of the outdoor hog feeders feature hot-dipped galvanized finish.

WHAT ACCESSORIES ARE AVAILABLE?

Osborne Big Wheel feeders are available with a number of accessories to customize for your application. Specially designed fenceline adapters to split feeders among pens come in different finishes and fiberglass-reinforced hopper lids are available for most feeders. A number of anchoring options are available including stainless steel hold-down brackets, and custom-designed post anchors. Steel rings can also be added or retrofitted to hopper top lips of finishing and nursery feeders for added strength when feeders are dumped and cleaned. Contact Osborne for a complete list of accessories available for each model.

WHERE CAN BIG WHEEL FEEDERS BE PURCHASED?

Purchase Big Wheel Feeders direct from Osborne or from our network of over 100 equipment distributors all over the world. Osborne's "no waste" reputation to pig feeding will convince you that no other pig feeder commercially available will save you more money by reducing some of the most expensive aspects of production, like feed waste and labor! Since the 1980s, the Osborne Big Wheel feeders have outperformed all others with reliable day-in, day-out service.

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