

## Go Green! – Recycled Feed Bag Tote Bag *by Teresa Boelens*

1. Decide on your feedbag. Figure out what portion will be useful for handles and the large remaining portion for the body of bag as each feedbag type is different.
2. Cut two 4-inch strips from the top or bottom of bag for the handles and possibly a strip for a pocket inside of the bag if desired and the remainder will become the body of the bag, which will differ depending on how big you want your tote to be.
3. Turn cleaned bag inside out and fold a ½” hem followed by a 1” folded hem and stitch on the sewing machine. This is the top of your tote bag.
4. Stitch the bottom of the bag with ½” hem followed with a zigzagged stitch on the very edge for strength. Fold seam allowance to one side of stitching line.
5. To make “square bottom” fold bag in opposite direction such that seam of bottom stitching lines up and overlaps middle side fold of bag. Measure 4 inches from point and stitch across. Repeat on opposite corner.
6. Turn bag right side out and push corners out.
7. At this time you can place and stitch in your pocket if desired. Make sure to do a rolled and stitched hem on the pocket top of about a ½” and then pin in place and stitch into bag on two sides and the bottom. Pocket sizes vary depending on need and can be stitched to the inside or outside of the bag. This step is completely optional.
8. To make the handles cut loop on each bag piece to make 2 single long strips. Fold each 4-inch strip with a ½” hem on the long side and then fold each side (raw edges on the inside) together toward the center to make a 2-inch wide strap and stitch on machine. Based on your personal preference decide how long you want your tote bag straps to be and adjust and trim the size accordingly.
9. Handles should be stitched to topsides of the bag using 3 inches of the strap approximately 4 inches from side edge of bag. Stitch with a rectangle pattern overlapping the top hem and then an “X” shaped pattern for added strength. Don’t forget to fold the strap one turn in the middle before stitching in place so it rests naturally on the shoulder when being carried.
10. To make a bottom support for your bag you will need a strip of heavy cardboard cut slightly undersized of the bottom of your bag. This can be covered with another extra piece of the feedbag in an envelope or package fold and secured with a strip of hot glue or tacky glue (I prefer hot glue). Then slide glued side down into the bottom of your bag and your tote is complete! These bags are durable, washable and can be made and entered as a 4-H fair project (as either recycle or sewing project). They can also be made and sold to farm market customers or make a great gift!!!!!!



