Fake cow decoy standing next to round bale blind fools birds and other prey.

"Cow Blind" Draws In Birds

Ducks, geese and turkeys are more likely to come over when you install this fake cow near a hunting blind out in the field, says Gooseview Industries, Grand Rapids, Minn. It can also be used as a blind on its own.

Constructed of corrugated polyethylene, the "Confidence Cow" blind is the photographic image of a Black Angus. It measures 48 in. high by 78 in. long by 1 in. deep and weighs 5 lbs. There are two viewing windows at the top and a metal stand on the side that you push into the ground. The unit folds flat to 42 in. high by 26 in. long by 2 in. deep for storage.

"It looks real and works great whether you hide behind it or simply place it close to your hunting blind," says inventor Curt Hill. FARM SHOW recently featured his round bale blind (Vol. 27, No. 6). "The reason it works is that wild birds, including ducks, geese and turkeys, aren't afraid of cows and will often feed on their manure. The fake cow signals to them that all is well. Most guys who buy it tell us they hide behind the cow. One customer bought six of our cow blinds to create a 'confidence herd!'

"Whitetail deer will avoid cows, allowing you the opportunity to reroute deer to run under your stand."

Sells for $99.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gooseview Industries, 628 Hwy. 2 East, Grand Rapids, Minn. 55744 (ph 800 399-5034 or 218 326-6332; fax 218 327-1508; email: orders@gooseview.com; website: www.gooseview.com).

"Brush" carried by Kampe's fork includes two or three 20-ft. tall willow trees.

Loader-Mounted "Brush Fork"

"There's nothing fancy about it, but it takes the work out of an otherwise back-breaking job," says Vernon Kampe, Beecher, Ill., about the loader-mounted "brush fork" he uses with his old Minneapolis Moline tractor.

Made entirely of oak, Kampe's brush fork measures 10 ft. wide and is equipped with four equally-spaced, 10-ft. long tines. It's designed to pick up brush and trees after they've been felled. The bottom side of the loader bucket bolts to a wood platform. There's a 6-ft. high safety railing on back.

To mount the brush fork, Kampe bolts the loader to the platform, using one bolt in each front corner of the bucket. He also bolts the back side of the bucket to a pair of metal brackets that mount on the back side of the railing. (He drilled holes in the bucket to match).

"I've used this idea for two years with very few problems. It's amazing how much material it can handle," says Kampe. "I got the idea because I have a creek that goes through my property, where willow trees grow rapidly and get up to 20 ft. tall. I can put two or three 20-ft. trees across the fork. I had been cutting the trees down and then picking them up by hand and throwing them onto a wagon. It's so much more fun to haul brush with a loader than it is to cut it and drag it by hand."

He cut the front part of each tine at a 45-degree angle so the tines ride on top of the ground instead of digging into it as he scoops up material. He used 3/8-in. redi bolts to put the entire fork together. "I saved money because redi bolts cost a lot less than regular bolts. However, scooping up the brush puts quite a strain on the fork and I had problems with the redi bolts stripping and rattling loose. I had to install new bolts several times. I solved the problem by switching to high strength redi rod bolts. They are more durable and not as likely to strip," notes Kampe.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vernon Kampe, 1016 Corning Rd. W., Beecher, Ill. 60401 (ph 708 946-6324).

Perfect bale feeder for small farms was made from spare parts by engineering students.

Rolling Hay Feeder Made From Pig Pen

Ray Morrison and his class of secondary students have built a hay manger that can be towed between pastures with a lawn tractor. "Because we took the wheels and axles from another tractor, it will follow in exactly the same path as what's towing it. This makes it great for use on a small farm," says Morrison, Hanover, Ont.

"The cage that holds the hay is built from an old pig pen. The outer frame is made of 1/8-in. thick steel tubing and the bars are 3/8-in. solid stock. Every third bar was removed and bent 90 degrees out across the middle to act as a bale holder," he says.

"I fill the manger with bales and loose hay. The 5-ft. by 2 1/2-ft. cage won't hold a full round bale."

The students did most of the welding and planning as part of an engineering class.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Morrison, RR 1, Dobbinton, Ontario N0H 1L0 Canada (ph 519 934-2797).

Double Gate Lets Small Animals Pass

The Capron family of Prague, Oklahoma has found a way to let sheep and goats move from pen to pasture without letting the cows out.

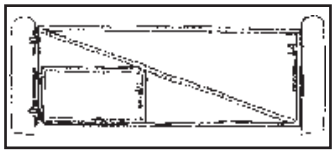
Brothers Reese and Ted came up with the idea of including a smaller gate within the frame of the main gate. The small gate can be kept closed or it can be left open to give small stock more area to roam.

Reese says they leave the small gate open so sheep and goats can go out onto pasture during the day and come back into the lot at night, but the cattle must stay out on pasture.

"They just step over the bottom of the large gate frame, since it's just a few inches above the ground," says Reese's wife, Sharon. "It works great for the sheep and goats, and sometimes the dog and our grandson, too," she jokes.

Reese says the gate frames are made from 1 1/2-in. tubing. The brothers used a cut-off saw to cut the tubing and then welded it together, with the small one inside the big one in the bottom corner. On the larger gate frame, they included a diagonal brace for added strength.

They hinged the little gate with two short pieces of 1 3/4-in. tubing, welded to the side of the small gate frame. They rotate around the larger gate frame upright. To prevent them from sliding down, Caprons slid two more pieces of the slightly larger tubing onto the large gate frame, just below the small gate hinges, and welded them on.



Sheep, dogs, goats and grandchildren all benefit from the "gate-within-gate."

Next, they placed a shortened corral panel on top of the entire frame and welded it on. The 16-ft. by 52-in. panels have 13 bars of 1/4-in. steel, but the Caprons cut this one down to 12 ft., to fit the gate hole and frame they had made.

After welding the 1/4-in. steel bars to the large and small gate frames, they used their grinder to grind away the bars around the perimeter of the smaller gate, giving it freedom to swing. The small gate dimensions are 5 ft. long by 2 1/2 ft. tall.

The big gate hinge is 3/4-in. pipe, hanging on pins screwed to the fence post.

"It took us about eight hours to make this gate," Reese says. "We really like it and materials cost us under $70."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reese Capron, Route 1, Box 272, Prague, Okla. 74864 (ph 405 567-4538).

Easy Sand Bag Filler

Mathew Piner and his "Go Bagger" demonstrate how easy it is for one person to fill up and sand bag with a single motion. The plastic scoop has a handle and spout so no shovel is needed. The Go Bagger sells for $59.95. Contact Piner Works, 1812 J St Ste 16, Sacramento, Calif. 95814 (ph 877 462-2448 or 916 442-5864; website: www.gobagger.com).