



## Round Bale Fence Keeps Deer Out

There's no reason for farmers to suffer damage to hay stacks caused by deer, according to Saskatchewan farmer Kingsley Schappert who came up with a simple idea that he says solved his problem with white tailed deer.

Schappert's troubles began when he got into the tree nursery business in an effort to diversify his farming operation. He planted 30 acres of shade trees but deer took their toll on the young trees.

At first Schappert considered building a deer-proof wire fence but he couldn't justify the cost. His solution was to put up a "no cost" straw bale fence.

There was a surplus of straw in his area last year and not much of a market for it. "The original idea was to put one row of bales around the field but people told me deer could easily jump over that," says Schappert. So he constructed a double layer of bales standing end-on end, making a fence 12 ft. high and 6 ft. wide all the way around the 30-acre field.

There are somewhere between 1,200 and 1,400 bales in the fence, most of which came off a 300 acre wheat field. He's not certain how many bales there are because the counter on his baler quit working while the bales were being made.

The fence has been 100 percent successful. Not a single deer has made it over the fence since it went up a year ago. Schappert expects the fence to last 5 to 10 years. When it does deteriorate, he plans to spread the



straw in among the trees as mulch.

"We don't figure it cost us much since we already had a baler and the straw," Schappert told FARM SHOW. "We put the bales in place when we had time. You could bale anything - weeds, cornstalks, or other crop residue. It wouldn't take nearly as many bales to protect a hay stack or a garden area."

Before building the fence, Schappert worried the straw bales would attract mice in among his trees. But he says mice stay in bales and leave the trees alone, which makes them easier to catch for foxes and coyotes, which he frequently sees running across the top of bales looking for the rodents.

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Photo courtesy Ontario Farmer

## Baling Plastic Silage Bags

Wet weather across much of North America means more farmers than ever have been putting up hay in big sausage-shaped silage bags or wrapping bales in plastic. The big problem after feeding out the hay is finding a way to get rid of the plastic.

Last spring, farmers in Renfrew County, Ontario, worked with local agricultural officials to come up with a solution. They simply fed the plastic into conventional square balers to make compact, 75 to 100-lb. plastic bales that can then be turned over

to plastic recyclers. Several demonstrations were set up. Farmers brought in all types of plastic. They used an unmodified New Holland 315 baler.

Steve Clarke, a Kemptville-based government ag official, says baling plastic takes some getting used to. "You have to get the knack of it to get it flowing into the baler in the right way," he says, noting that one problem is that some silage bags are 150 ft. long. Once the baler pickup starts pulling the bag into the baler, it draws it in too



## He "Strip-Tills" Fertilizer In Fall, Then Plants Into Strips In Spring

"It lets us deep band dry fertilizer and anhydrous in the fall while at the same time clearing narrow strips of soil to plant into in the spring," says Lowell Filbrun, Fletcher, Ohio, who rigged up his own fall "strip till" applicator.

Filbrun explains that the cleared row strips warm up fast in the spring. "Lets me plant into a dry, garden-like seedbed without disturbing residue on either side of the row," he says.

Filbrun mounted a 6-row, 30-in. 3-pt. Kinze double toolbar (minus the Kinze planter units) on an old drill caddy and mounted dry fertilizer boxes off an International planter on top of the rear toolbar. He mounted Blu-Jet 20-in. fluted coulters at an angle on the front bar followed by anhydrous knives and anhydrous disc sealers. Anhydrous and dry fertilizer are both deep banded directly behind the knives. A hitch behind the toolbar is used to pull an anhydrous ammonia tank.

"The big problem with row-clearing trash wheels mounted on planters is that row units follow right behind them so you plant into cold, moist soil after the residue is cleared," notes Filbrun. "Another big benefit of fall strip-till is that we already have our starter fertilizer on when we plant and deep banding fertilizer under the row makes it more available to the plant. Also, we can



apply more starter fertilizer with our strip-till applicator than we could with planter. We still apply a little liquid starter fertilizer when we plant - about 50 lbs. per acre.

"We use strip-till only to plant corn into soybeans. We don't plant corn after corn, but it would probably work in corn stalks."

The Kinze toolbar still had the original markers which Filbrun uses to keep rows straight. He paid \$500 for the fertilizer boxes and \$1,500 for the Blu-Jet coulters, which he bought new. He already had the Kinze toolbar.

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quickly resulting in tangling. Clarke says the key is cutting the bag into pieces about 50 ft. long.

Stretch-type plastic used to wrap bales is harder to bale and must also be fed into the machine carefully.

At one of the demonstrations, 110 bales of plastic were made and then shipped to a recycling firm in Florida that turns it into plastic lumber.