



Pump primer consists of an electric motor and an air conditioning compressor that generates 20 to 25 lbs. of suction, along with a clear plastic bulb and a valve. Photo shows pump pulling water out of bucket.

Low-Cost Irrigation Pump Primer

When he couldn't find what he wanted on the market, Kelly Lenington, Fort Benton, Mont., built his own electric-operated irrigation pump primer out of an air conditioning compressor and an electric motor.

"It works great for lifting water up out of a river or pond to your center pivot irrigation system," says Lenington.

The pump primer consists of an electric motor and an air conditioning compressor that generates 20 to 25 lbs. of suction, along with a clear plastic bulb and a valve. It mounts next to your irrigation pump. You plumb a pipe from the primer into the top of the pump and also install a valve on the pump. Then you flip a switch to start the motor and open the valves on both the primer and pump. The

primer sucks water out of the river or pond and delivers it through the pipe to the pump. As soon as the bulb fills with water, the pump is primed and you can shut off both valves and turn on the pump.

"It sells for less than \$600 compared to commercial vacuum-type models that sell for \$1,300 to \$1,500," says Lenington. "You can buy commercial hand primers for about \$300, but they're a lot of work and take a long time to operate. I've built 10 models so far and am willing to build more. I can build them to operate off either single or 3-phase electricity."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelly Lenington, Box 353, Fort Benton, Mont. 59442 (ph 406 622-3671 or 5084; E-mail: ckl@mcn.net).

"Nozzle Wrench" Keeps Irrigators Dry

If you try to unplug an irrigation nozzle with a conventional wrench, the pressure inside the line can create a drenching spray. Worse yet, it can force the nozzle off the wrench as you remove it. The only way to solve the problem is to stop the flow of water by shutting off the pump.

Pat Briley decided there had to be a better way, so he designed a special wrench he calls the Nozzle Master. It's a 5-in. long tool that has a hollow tube, allowing water to flow through it as it's being used. The wrench is designed to grip and remove the old nozzle and also to put in a new one. It has a slotted base and a socket-shaped head with an O-ring in it. The slotted base is used to loosen the nozzle. Then you place the wrench's head over the nozzle to remove it.

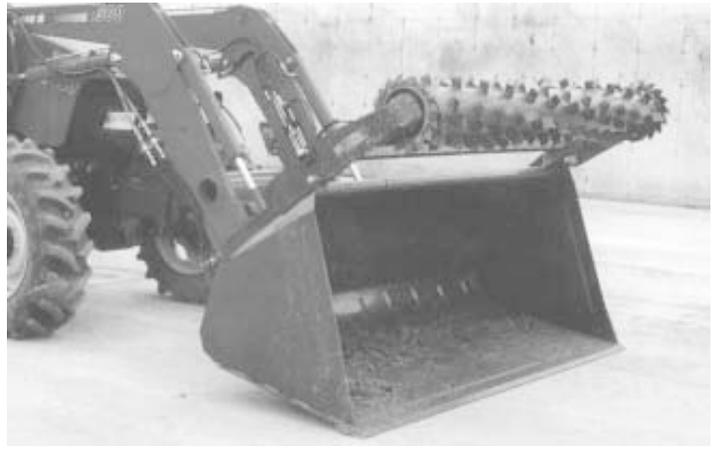
You use the slotted base end of the wrench to screw in the new nozzle. The wrench is made from zinc-plated steel tubing and weighs 15 oz.



Nozzle Master is a 5-in. long tool that has a hollow tube, allowing water to flow through it as it's being used.

Sells for \$25.95 plus \$5 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keller's Auto Parts, 787 12th St., North-John Day Highway, Vale, Ore. 97918 or P & C Enterprises, Box 169, Harper, Ore. 97906 (ph 541 358-2745; E-mail: crandell@ruralnetwork.net).



Valmetal rotary silage cutter is designed to remove hard-packed silage from bunker silos. Arms weld onto bucket of any front-end loader, skid loader, or payloader.

Bucket-Mounted Rotary Cutter For Bunker Silos

"It's designed to reduce spoilage and forage waste in bunker silos," says Allan Koch about the new Valmetal hydraulic-powered, rotary silage cutter.

The rotary silage cutter is equipped with arms that weld onto the bucket of any front-end loader, skid steer loader, or payloader. It consists of a 9-in. dia. drum equipped with a series of welded-on teeth. Power is provided by a hydraulic motor that operates off the tractor hydraulics. Steel arms support the drum pin and are pinned onto brackets that you weld onto the top corners of the bucket. The drum can be set at three different positions by changing the position of a pair of pins.

The unit is available in two standard widths - 6 1/2 and 8-ft. Models can be custom-made to fit other bucket widths.

"It results in a cleaner face on the bunker silo that reduces exposure to oxygen and results in less waste," says Koch. "It doesn't cut the silage and throw it into the bucket. Instead, it cuts in and drops loose silage onto the ground. You then level the bucket and scoop the loose silage into it."

The 6 1/2-ft. wide model sells for \$3,600 (Canadian) and the 8-ft. model for \$3,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allan Koch, Northumberland Silo, Inc., Box 1260, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada B2N 5N2 (ph 902 893-3772; fax 902 662-2221).

Heavy-Duty Rotary Silage Cutter

Conventional loader buckets often have a hard time loading out of bunker silos. Ken Slaby says his new hydraulic-powered, rotating "Silage Master" makes the job much easier and safer.

The 6-ft. wide unit is designed with quick tach brackets and fits skid steer loaders as well as front-end loaders and telehandlers. It's equipped with an 18-in. dia. drum that has rows of specially-designed teeth welded onto it. It weighs about 1,000 lbs. The drum is chain-driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off tractor hydraulics. A steel hood mounted behind the drum keeps silage from falling onto the operator.

"It's built heavy and does a nice job," says Slaby. "The teeth extend about 4 in. out from the drum and are designed to dig the silage loose without cutting or tearing it. The drum rotates at a slow speed so the unit pulls down very easily through the silage. Because of the teeth design, the particle length of the silage remains unchanged.

"To use the unit, you first loosen as much silage as you need and let it fall to the ground.



Ken Slaby's hydraulic-powered, rotating "Silage Master" is equipped with an 18-in. dia. drum that has rows of specially-designed teeth welded onto it.

Then you remove the Silage Master and put your bucket back on in order to scoop it up. It's a lot safer than trying to dig the silage out with a bucket, especially as bunker silos get bigger and higher."

Sells for \$5,895.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Slaby, N35353 Richter Rd., Whitehall, Wis. 54773 (ph 715 538-4486; fax 715 538-4781).

Bale Slicer Fits Skid Steer Loaders

A new bale slicer for skid steer loaders can pick up and carry the biggest bales in addition to slicing them into pieces.

"It lets you haul bales from storage to the feeding area and then cut them up," says Tim Dresen, Precision Farm Machinery, Oelwein, Iowa.

The bale slicer fits most skid steers with bi-directional auxiliary hydraulics. It's equipped with four spears and a 6-ft. 10-in. long blade that's raised and lowered by a 3-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder. The blade is protected by a steel guard and has an open

height of 8 ft. The unit weighs about 500 lbs. and has a lift capacity of 2,500 lbs.

"You have a much better view of the bale than you do with 3-pt. bale slicers, and you have the maneuverability of a skid loader," says Dresen. "The knife is long enough to cut through bales up to 6 ft. high and 5 ft. 2 in. wide.

Sells for \$2,280.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Precision Farm Machinery, 801 2nd Ave. S.E., Oelwein, Iowa 50662 (ph 319 283-5695; fax 2600; Website: www.abcoveyor.com/PFM.).



Bale slicer is equipped with a 6-ft. 10-in. long hydraulic-operated blade.