



Stretcher has a 1 1/2-in. dia. cylinder with a 3/4-in. dia. rod and a come-along pinned to each end. Cylinder is controlled by open center valve equipped with a pressure gauge.

Hydraulic-Powered Wire Stretcher

If you have trouble stretching long lengths of fence wire or if you use long stretches of wire for other purposes on the farm, you'll be interested in this hydraulic-powered wire stretcher invented by hops farmer Henry Charvet of Grandview, Wash.

The powered stretcher consists of a 1 1/2-in. dia., custom-built cylinder with a 3/4-in. dia. rod and a heavy duty come-along pinned to each end. The cylinder is controlled by an open center valve that's equipped with a built-in relief valve. It's powered by tractor hydraulics. The remote control valve is equipped with a pressure gauge.

Charvet grows hops on heavy-gauge wire strung 18 ft. off the ground, 7 ft. apart. The hops climb up strings that trail down to the ground.

"It was a relatively simple device to make. We use thousands of wires to grow hops. We don't have to tighten them all every year, but

we do quite a few.

"The relief valve keeps the operator from over tightening the wire. We usually keep the relief valve pressure at between 400 and 600 lbs., although that figure will vary depending on the wire size and type. We use a low carbon no. 4 wire. We use a formula to calculate how much pressure we put on the wire. It should be noted that the pressure on the gauge is not the pounds of tension on the wire. To determine the pounds of pull on the wire, use this formula: Force in pounds equals gauge pressure times cylinder area minus the rod area. For example, using my cylinder and the above formula, 200 psi gauge pressure equals 270 lbs. of pull where area equals diameter squared times .7854."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Charvet, 1551 Chase Road, Grandview, Wash. 98930 (ph 509 882-1368).



Charvet, who grows hops, uses powered stretcher to run wires 18 ft. off the ground.

"World's Fastest" Battery Cable Disconnect

You can disconnect battery cables with a simple "twist and click" using this new quick connector that requires no tools.

A spring-loaded pin connects two short cable lugs. You install the lugs by cutting one of the battery cables between the engine and the battery, and clamping them on. To disconnect the cables, you turn the pin 1/4 turn and it clicks and snaps apart on its own.

"It really comes in handy when you want to repair a wiring problem or disconnect the battery for storage or theft prevention. We offer models to fit any size battery cable," says Michael Smith, A.I.R. Inc., Springfield, Ill.

Sizes range from a 6 ga. model priced at \$8.92 to the largest 4/0 model which is priced at \$17.25.



Spring-loaded pin connects two short cable lugs that clamp onto battery cables.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael W. Smith, Box 1150, Springfield, Ill. 62705 (ph 217 698-8858; fax 217 498-9978; E-mail: smithmichael@aol.com; Website: www.A-I-R-Inc.com).

Cows Love New Powered Cattle Brushes

Powered brushes for dairy cattle are catching on fast. Three different models were on display at the recent Canadian International farm equipment show in Toronto.

Depending on the model, the brushes

can clean an animal's face, neck, shoulders, back and tailhead and reduce insect problems without the use of chemicals. All three of the brushes below are activated automatically by motion sensor switches.

Bova Brush

The 4-ft. long, 32-in. dia. Bova Brush is powered by a small electric motor. The brush pivots from end to end like a teeter totter to accommodate animals of different sizes. The mounting bracket is hinged and, by removing a pin, can be folded to the side in order to make room for scraping equipment in alleyways. "The bristles should last for 10 or 15 years before they have to be replaced," says a company spokesman.

Sells for about \$2,200 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Davon Sales, Inc., 50 Lansdowne Ave., Box 24014, Woodstock, Ontario, Canada N4S



8Y4 (ph 519 537-2375 or 800 561-1706; fax 519 537-7991; E-mail: davon@oxford.net).

Lely Luna

The Lely Luna is a 30-in. dia. brush that's powered by a small electric motor that's activated as soon as the cow bumps the brush. It can be mounted on a wall or pole.

A timer keeps the brush rotating for about 30 seconds at a time, then it automatically shuts off. If the cow's tail ever gets caught in the brush, the unit will automatically stop, preventing injury. The brush mounts on a metal frame that pivots up or down according to the cow's size. The brushes are made in sections and are secured by a single bolt. Worn sections can be replaced by simply removing the bolt.

Sells for \$1,700 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lely Canada, Inc., 218 Silvercreek Parkway North, Box 339, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1H 8E8 (ph 877 535-9269 or 519 836-



6879; fax 6850; E-mail: sales@lely.ca. Website: www.lely.ca).

Vink

The Vink brush is suspended from a truss or rafter by the use of springs and chains supplied with the brush. As soon as the cow makes contact with the brush, the motor that drives it starts turning clockwise or counterclockwise, depending on the direction from which the cow approaches the brush. Because of the suspension and the brush's long nylon bristles, the animal doesn't get brushed too forcefully, so damage to the skin - and to the brush - is prevented, says the company. Also, the suspended design lets animals use it to brush their sides.

Sells for about \$1,800 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A&A



E-Z Brush & Oiler, 4133 Egremont Dr., Rt. 5, Strathroy, Ontario, Canada N7G 3H6 (ph 800 482-6495 or ph/fax 519 245-3807).

Wash-Up Tank Makes Cleanup Easy

Here's an easy way to set up an emergency water supply for washing up when you're far from home.

We spotted the setup in the fields at Iowa State University's research farm. It consists of about a 30-gal. plastic tank mounted high on a pedestal with a plastic tube coming out of a downspout at the bottom. A pull-chain connects to a spring-loaded toggle valve, which lets water out. A shelf below holds a plastic bin containing soap, towels, and other supplies.

Water gravity-flows out of a 30-gal. plastic tank equipped with a plastic tube coming out of a downspout at the bottom.

