



Headlock design allows cows to enter from either the top or bottom.



A steel bar pivots at the middle and can be moved to either side of a pin (at top).

Two-Way Shear Pin-Protected Cattle Head Locks

Most cattle head locks are designed so cows have to lift their heads to enter the head lock and eat. Samuel Wurz, Vulcan, Alberta, designed a two-way shear pin-protected head lock that lets cows enter from either the top or bottom.

"It eliminates the need to train cattle to enter a head lock and also prevents the possibility of a cow falling and getting caught on top of the head lock," says Wurz.

The head lock is equipped with a steel bar that pivots at the middle. A pair of steel rods are welded onto one side of the bar to block the opening. A removeable shear pin mounts in a horizontal frame at the top of the head lock. The bar can be moved to either side of the pin, allowing the animal to enter the head lock from either the top or bottom. By removing the pin, the bar head lock is "locked" in position with the bar straight up and down.

"We came up with the idea after we tried moving some heifers into our milking barn,

which was equipped with head locks that opened from the top," notes Wurz. "The animals had been feeding from a headlock that opened only at the bottom. When they came into the barn they tried to enter the head lock from the bottom but weren't able to so they couldn't eat. We had to feed them by hand, which was a big hassle. We found that after only a month or so of training the animal will know that it has to lift its head in order to go in or out of the head lock. From that point on it'll automatically enter through the top of the head lock, even if the bottom of the head lock is open.

"Another advantage is that if the animal falls it can't get hurt because the shear pin will break and the animal will fall right out the bottom of the head lock, instead of getting her neck hung on top and dying."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Samuel Wurz, Box 1060, Vulcan, Alberta, Canada T0L 2B0.

Nite Guard Discourages Predators

Jim and Betty Meyer, Princeton, Minnesota, sell several hundred thousand ringneck pheasants each year as well as about 30,000 partridge.

The birds are kept in outside pens. And at night, Great Horned Owls and other predatory birds were regular visitors. "We were running a regular 7-11 store for predators," he says. "They were flying away with our profits."

Because most predatory birds are protected by Federal and/or state governments, the Meyers couldn't do much to eradicate them.

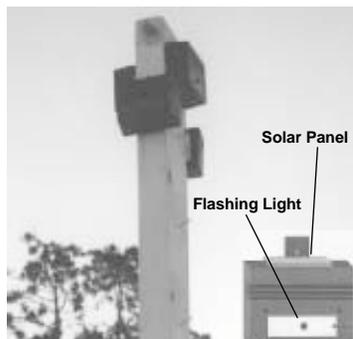
"All we can do is discourage them from hunting on our farm," Jim Meyer says.

After trying several other ideas, they found that small, flashing red lights would scare the birds away. They designed a small solar-powered unit that could be mounted anywhere. It worked so well they arranged to manufacture the lights and solar chargers. They call it the Nite Guard.

"There are no batteries to wear out and you don't have to run electric wiring to it," he points out. While the lights flash, they're not strobes, so they don't really call attention to themselves, like lights on ambulances.

"Owls and other night predatory birds are very wary. They usually perch in a tree or on a pole to look over an area before they'll attack. This small flashing light is enough to signal danger to them, so they avoid the area," Meyer explains. At the same time, the lights are so small and subtle that most people don't notice them unless they look directly at them.

Several lights can also be used to keep raccoons, deer and other animals out of gardens, orchards and flower beds. They're also somewhat effective against weasels,



Solar-powered unit uses red flashing light to scare away predators. One light will protect about an acre. Photo shows four units mounted on one pole.

foxes, and coyotes. "They don't work for every pest," he says. "The higher the intelligence level, the quicker the animals adapt to the lights. But if they're spaced properly around a sweet corn patch, they'll keep raccoons from stealing the crop."

It takes only an hour of bright sunlight to store up enough electricity to keep the lights going all night long. And on cloudy days, six hours of daylight will do the job.

Nite Guard lights measure 2 1/2 by 2 by 1 in. One light will protect about an acre in one direction. You may need additional lights to shine in other directions. They last for 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 years and sell for \$19.95, post paid.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Oakwood Game Farm, Inc., Box 274, Princeton, Minn. 55371 (ph 800 328-6647; Website: www.niteguard.com).



Grapple rake uses a hydraulic-operated grapple to clamp and hold material. "They're ideal for loading logs, picking up rocks, and piling brush," says AnBo Mfg.

Grapple Rake For Skid Steer And Front-End Loaders

"Our new grapple rake for tractor loaders, skid steers, and 3-pt. hitches is ideal for loading logs, picking up rocks, orchard prunings, and raking and piling brush and other debris," says Terry Anderson, AnBo Mfg., Colville, Wash.

The new grapple rake has a hydraulic-operated grapple for clamping and holding material. The teeth are spaced 6 in. apart and are attached to heavy duty, rectangular steel tubing. A pair of hydraulic cylinders are used to open or close the grapple.

"It's a farmer-friendly unit," says Anderson. "There are bigger grapple forks on the market, but most of them are designed to be mounted on excavators or on tracked loaders used by the logging industry. We offer mounting brackets for most loaders and all Cat. I and II 3-pt. hitches. The unit mounts close to the loader arms for increased leverage and reduced stress on the machine.

"The teeth are made from T-1 steel that has 2 1/2 times the strength of regular steel. You can use this grapple fork to clear fence rows and pile up brush and also to pick it up and move it. The grapple teeth close down to about 3 in. apart. The narrow width of the blade allows you to skim the ground with the teeth and use the unit like a rake on a crawler tractor. The teeth are curved enough that logs slide up them, allowing you to pick up and



The company offers mounting brackets for most loaders and all Cat. I and II 3-pt. hitches.

haul more than one log at a time."

The company offers grapple forks in widths from 4 to 9 ft. "The 9-ft. model opens about 65 in. wide which is big enough to handle round bales. Our most popular size is 6 ft., which most skid steer loaders can handle," notes Anderson.

A 6-ft. grapple rake with quick tach brackets for skid steer loaders sells for \$2,750.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AnBo Mfg. Inc., 822-A Barzee Rd., Colville, Wash. 99114 (ph 509 684-3330; fax 509 684-1997; E-mail: sales@anbomanufacturing.com; Website: www.anbomanufacturing.com).

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