



Portable electric fence wraps around each center pivot tower, forming a rectangular enclosure. Wire hanging down in front of tire keeps calves from getting run over.

## “Sprinkler Guard” For Center Pivots

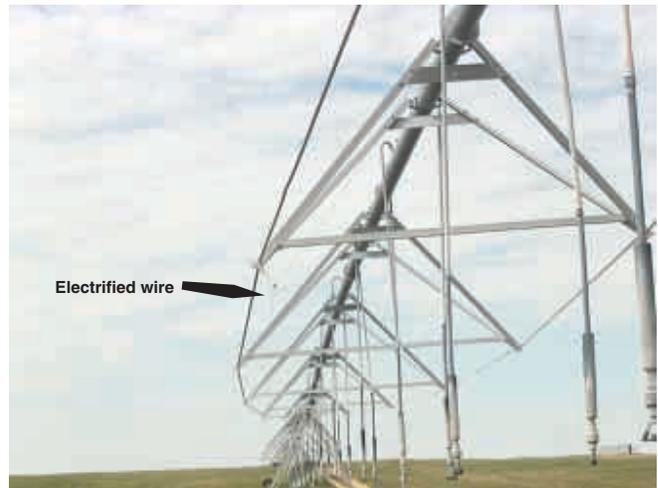
Anyone who grazes livestock on center pivot irrigated pasture or wheat knows that cattle can chew on the motors and wiring, causing extensive damage. Another problem is calves lie down in the wheel ruts and get run over.

Robert Hittle says his new patent pending Sprinkler Guard solves both problems. It’s a portable electric fence that wraps around each tower, forming a rectangular enclosure. The system operates off any 110-volt, 12-volt, or solar-powered fence charger.

A single electrified wire, or electric tape, runs the length of the irrigator about 1 ft. below the pipe, with a wire leading down from

it at each tower. The rectangular fence is supported by a pair of T-shaped bars equipped with an insulator at each end. The T-bar slides over a 4-in. length of sq. tubing that you weld at an upward angle to the end of each base beam. To remove the fence for irrigating row crops you simply remove the T-bars.

An attachment is available that’s designed to keep calves from getting run over. An insulator on the T-bar supports a piece of wire with a short length of log chain attached to it. The chain hangs about 2 in. off the ground, directly in front of the tire. As the sprinkler moves forward, the electrified wire startles



A single, electrified wire runs length of irrigator about 1 ft. below pipe, with a wire leading down from it at each tower. the calf into moving away from the tire.

“It’s easy to install and saves a lot of hassle,” says Hittle. “It takes only five or six hours to install the entire system. The fence stays hot all the time, whether the irrigator is moving or stationary or whether it’s going forward or backward.

“We supply the T-bars and insulators; the farmer supplies the wire. Some farmers install a gate hook on one of the wires forming the corral, and another gate hook at the top of the vertical wire. That way if they want to switch from irrigating pastures to row crops, they can quickly unhook the wires and slide

the T-bars out of the holders and then store the one-piece unit out of the way. The Sprinkler Guard has to be removed in row crops in order to keep the crop from damaging it, and to keep the Sprinkler Guard from damaging the crop. The gate hook on the corral provides easy access to the irrigator whenever you need to work on it.”

The Sprinkler Guard fits any brand of center pivot. Sells for \$60 per tower.

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Charles McLaughlin has reconditioned a total of 54 Farmalls, including one of nearly every model built between 1931 and 1960.

## “Like-New” Farmall Collection

Charles McLaughlin grew up with Farmall tractors and farmed with them all his life. Six years ago the retired Alpha, Ill., farmer started collecting them and he now has one of the country’s best collections of Farmalls.

“Some people have more Farmall tractors, but all of mine are completely restored to original operating condition,” says Charles, who has reconditioned a total of 54 models, including one of nearly every model built between 1931 and 1960.

“The first year I started collecting Farmalls I only bought two tractors. After that I kept buying anywhere from three to ten models every year. Most of them didn’t run when I got them,” says McLaughlin.

He keeps his tractors in a couple of new sheds that he built just for his tractor collection.

He displays all the tractors at an “open house” held for four days every August. This past year was his sixth annual show. The tractors are lined up in rows next to a busy highway, accompanied by a large sign that reads

“Charlie’s Home For Retired Farmalls.” Each tractor has a sign indicating the year and model number.

“It’s quite a job to get all the tractors out of the sheds and line them up. It takes about a day and a half,” says McLaughlin. “I put pennants up around the tractors and even make up badges for visitors. I schedule the open house to coincide with a local fair and rodeo so there’s always a lot of traffic going by to see my tractors. Many people ask me if any of my tractors are for sale, but I have to tell them no.”

McLaughlin says he buys the tractors mostly by word of mouth from private owners. “Tracking down the whereabouts of the models I want is half the fun of collecting and restoring them,” he says.

Some of the tractors are quite rare. His oldest tractor is a 1931 Farmall Regular; the newest a 1960 560.

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He displays all the tractors at an “open house” held for four days every August.



Dunking plants in hot water shows promise as a way to kill common greenhouse insects and bacterial diseases, says a University of Maryland researcher.

## Hot Water Kills Greenhouse Pests

A University of Maryland researcher says dunking plants in hot water shows promise as a way to kill common greenhouse insects and bacterial diseases.

Stanton Gill, a regional extension specialist, says the practice could save growers thousands of dollars in insecticides and fumigation costs. Another big benefit is worker safety and the fact that there is no re-entry time, so work can continue without interruption. And insurance companies might lower rates when chemical use is decreased.

Determined to find out if the idea would work on a larger scale, Gill, with help from David Ross, a University of Maryland ag engineer and Chuck Schuster, Montgomery county (Maryland) extension educator, spent the first six months of 2003 putting together a prototype system. They received funding for the work in the form of a grant from the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association.

The system is designed around a 100-gal. stock tank. A pump circulates water from

the tank through a propane-fired instant hot water heater and back into the tank through inlets on both sides of the tank. This allows them to maintain a constant water temperature.

So far, the researchers have used the system to treat cuttings being used to propagate new plants. They’ve found that a temperature of 128 degrees F (49 C) for 8 to 12 min. is sufficient to control most plant diseases. Once the cuttings are treated, they’re allowed to cool in ambient air for 6 to 8 min. and then placed in a mist chamber.

Gill says they expect to fine tune the system a bit more and then take it out to a nursery in Maryland to field test.

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