

Low-Cost Tire Fence

When Gerald Michaud expanded his cattle handling facilities he went looking for economical, durable fencing at a low cost. He got what he wanted by building a "tire fence" out of 9-ft. high earth-moving tires.

The fence measures 330 ft. long and is designed in a semi-circular shape that allows the movement of cattle from either side into his handling facility.

He obtained 37 tire sidewalls at a cost of just \$200, which was the trucking fee to his farm. Each sidewall is 9 ft. in diameter and weighs about 1,000 lbs. He used a backhoe equipped with a narrow bucket to dig a 12-in. trench along the fence line. He then set the second sidewall in the reverse position end-to-end to the first one, overlapping slightly. He used 6-in. lag screws to fasten the tires together.

"The big tires have a 5-ft. dia. bead," he says. "That meant I still had a 5-ft. dia. hole in each sidewall that I covered with smaller

diameter tires that are bolted to the big ones."

To discourage animals from trying to jump across the "valleys" between the tires, he bolted a 1 by 6 between them. Soil was then backfilled into the trench about 18 in. above ground level. The backfill further discourages animals from testing the fence, and it provides a solid wall to hold feed from his bale shredder that's unloaded next to the sidewalls. It also allows rain and snow melt to drain away from the tires.

"We've used it for three years with no problems," says Michaud. "Our bulls are so intimidated by the fence that they don't even try to crawl through or jump over it. The black fence provides an excellent windbreak for calves as the black rubber draws heat from the sun. Calves snuggle against the backfill. My total cost was less than \$300."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Michaud, Box 1979, St. Paul, Alberta, Canada T0A 3A0 (ph 780 645-2520).



"Tire fence" was built out of 9-ft. high earth-moving tires set in a 12-in. trench. Soil was backfilled into trench about 18 in. above ground level.



Standard 2-in. front receiver hitch bolts on in place of factory tow hook. If desired, a removeable winch can be mounted on either hitch (right).

Front Hitch Replaces Tow Hooks

This new front receiver hitch is designed to replace the factory tow hooks on your pickup, making it much more versatile.

The standard 2-in. front receiver hitch is a direct replacement for a factory tow hook and bolts on in its place. To remove the hitch you simply pull out a pin.

"It makes it easy to back a trailer or wagon into a shed, or to launch a boat," says inventor Lee Nemeec. "Most customers install two hitches, one on each side of the pickup frame. If desired, a removeable winch can be mounted on either hitch. Or, you can use the hitches to attach a boat/ladder rack or tow bar, or mount a grill guard or cattle catcher, etc."

"The original pickup is equipped with a



round hook or in some cases a loop, so you can't do anything with the hooks other than attach a chain or a tow strap to them. Other front hitches require drilling and tapping."

The hitches are designed to fit 2000-2002 Chevy/GMC 1500 heavy duty 4-WD crew cabs, 2500 pickups/Suburbans, 2500 heavy duty and 3500 heavy duty 2- and 4-WD pickups, as well as Ford F-150 pickups.

Each hitch sells for \$59.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LEED Engineering, LLC, 420 14th Ave., West, Ashland, Wis. 54806 (ph 715 682-8330; fax 715 682-8331; email: leedengineering@charter.net).

Barrel Idea Helps Burn Trash Cleanly

L.D. Prebble of Dansville, Mich., recently contacted FARM SHOW to tell us about a simple idea he uses to burn trash inside barrels cleanly and efficiently.

Prebble removed both ends of a 55-gal. drum. Then, he fastened four legs of welded 1/8-in. thick steel to the bottom rim with 1/4-in. bolts. The legs are 1 1/2 in. wide by 3 in. long which elevates the barrel about 2 in. off the ground, creating a chimney effect.

"The big advantage is that the fire burns clean and is always under control," says Prebble, noting that you can get the same effect by setting a barrel on four bricks. "Even when it's windy, everything stays inside the barrel. Of course, one should burn only items that are environmentally safe to burn and allowed by state or county fire departments," he adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, L.D. Prebble, 537 Fields Road, Dansville, Mich. 48819 (ph 517 623-6908).



After removing both ends of 55-gal. drum, Prebble bolted four legs to bottom rim. Legs elevate barrel about 2 in. off the ground, creating a chimney effect.

Puzzle-Type Bed Liner Adds Weight To Pickup

Here's a new way to add weight to a pickup that takes up less room in the box.

The weight system consists of interlocking puzzle-type pieces that can add up to 450 lbs. of weight to the bed of a pickup. The poly pieces are hollow. You simply fill them with sand and slide them under anchor brackets that fasten to the sides of the box.

You can cover all or part of the bed, depending on how much weight is needed.

Models are available to fit any pickup model.

Sells for \$479 (Canadian) for longbeds; \$399 for shortbeds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Free Form Plastic Products, Box 159, 502 F.P. Bourgault Drive, St. Brieux, Sask., Canada S0K 3V0 (ph 306 275-2155; fax 306 275-2101; email: sales@freeformplastics.com; website: www.freeformplastics.com).



Weight system consists of interlocking puzzle-type pieces that are hollow. You simply fill them with sand and slide them under anchor brackets that fasten to sides of box.

Self-Unloading Round Bale Hauler

An Alabama farmer, looking for a way to haul round bales from a field 10 miles to his farm, went to the Cullman Area Vocational Center's welding department for help.

The result is what instructor Wade Hancock calls a self-unloading hay trailer that's designed to be pulled by a pickup. It can handle up to three 4 by 5-ft. or 5 by 5-ft. bales, each with its own individually-controlled dump cradle. The operator controls the release of each bale by releasing a latch and simply "tips" the bale over so that it flips away from the trailer. There are no hydraulics, chains, or motors.

"It eliminates the need for a tractor and greatly speeds up transport time between fields. Only one person is needed to operate it. It's ideal for small farmers who need to carry hay long distances to feed," says Hancock. "It could also be designed to carry 5 by 6-ft. bales."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wade Hancock, Cullman Area Career Center, 17640 Highway 31, Cullman, Alabama 35058 (ph 256 734-7740; email: whweldit@yahoo.com; fax 256 734-7464).

Operator controls release of each bale by releasing a latch and simply "tips" bale over so that it flips away from trailer (above). Trailer can handle up to three 4 by 5-ft. or 5 by 5-ft. bales, each with its own individually-controlled dump cradle.

