



Rods at ends of crossbar are fitted with lengths of rubber tubing that follow the row.

Simple Home-Built Planter Marker

When the row marker assembly on his Deere 1240 planter wore out, Roy Monzo decided it would be easier and cheaper to make a new one rather than try to repair or replace the old marker.

Monzo's home-built marker mounts on front of his tractor. He welded a section of electrical conduit to a metal plate which he bolted to the front of his tractor. At each end, another smaller pipe slides inside the main pipe and can be adjusted with a wingnut. At each end of the second pipe, Monzo fastened a 1/4-in. dia. rod at a right angle, and from the end of that he attached a 12-in. piece of flexible rubber tubing.

The tubing hangs about 2 in. above the ground, directly over the outside planter row. "A rise in the ground will hit the rubber

hose, but it won't break because it's flexible," he says. "With your marking system right in front of you, you can keep your rows exactly the same distance apart. It's too difficult to eyeball it."

Thanks to the way it telescopes, Monzo's planter is adjustable for various sized planters, and allows him to set it in a compact mode for traveling down narrow lanes without worrying about it catching on trees and bushes.

"I got the concept for mine from a neighbor who used a similar idea," he says. "It's really simple, so it's not going to wear out. I've got less than \$15 tied up in it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy Monzo, 1620 E. Grass Lake Rd., Clare, Michigan 48617 (ph 989 386-9910).



At a recent show, new detachable grapple was mounted on a rock bucket.

"Detachable" Grapple Fits Any Loader Bucket

Grappler attachments for buckets are common but this might be the first one that can be easily removed by a single person. The new Houle hydraulic grapple can be fitted onto any bucket. It removes by unhooking the hoses and pulling 2 pins.

The grapple brackets attach to any tractor or skid loader bucket along with the grapple's 2 1/2 by 18-in. hydraulic cylinders. The grapple bar comes in 4 to 8-ft. widths and can handle up to eight 5/8-in. thick grapple-teeth.

The grapple sells for \$1,649 with a standard 4-ft. bar. For wider width buckets you can buy a longer bar with extra teeth.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AgCore, Inc., 5682 Ike Dixon Road, Camillus, New York 13031 (ph 315 672-3698).



Quick-tach bracket attaches to any tractor or skid steer.

Easy Way To Raise A Few Hogs

Putting hogs on leashes is an inexpensive way to keep a couple of animals around for butchering without the need for housing or fences, says Mose D. Gingerich, Smiths Grove, Ky., who has successfully leash-trained five pigs.

He starts to break them when they weigh about 50 lbs., and eventually grows them out to anywhere from 350 to 500 lbs.

"Most people find it hard to believe when they see a hog wearing a loose fitting collar around the neck with no problem," he says. "It's a cost-effective option for those who don't raise enough to justify fencing."

Leashed hogs can be staked out on pasture and moved often to new ground. "I don't have proof that grass-fed pork has any health benefits, but it's a known fact that they clean up better when butchered. Lard from hogs raised on pasture stays fresh longer than lard from commercially produced hogs," Gingerich says.

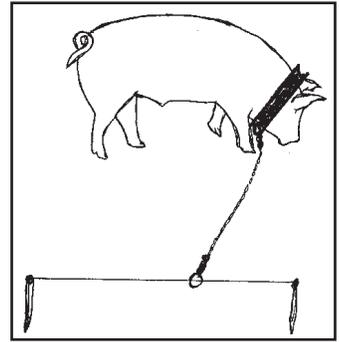
Gingerich started collar-breaking hogs because it's hard to keep a hog inside a fence and difficult to get them back if they escape.

He sets up a hutch and water trough in the shade. He supplements the grass diet with shelled corn. He says two or three rings in the nose will keep a pig from rooting the grass up too much.

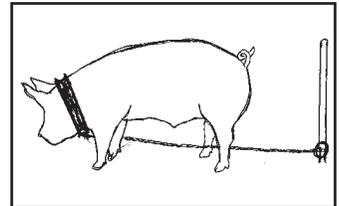
He starts the collar training with a 1-in. wide, single ply collar made from harness leather. The holes are spaced about 1/2 in. apart because a perfect fit is required to keep the animal from slipping the collar.

"To properly adjust the collar on a pig, it should be done while the hog's nose is on the ground, and the collar should be somewhat loose. On a pig weighing 200 pounds or more, there should be room to easily fit your hand under the collar on the top of the pig's neck. Smaller pigs may need to be fitted a little tighter. If the collar is snugged up while the pig has its nose to the ground, it will be too tight when it raises its head," he explains.

Gingerich uses a 10-ft. long, 3/16-in. welded link chain with a swivel snap at each end to tether each animal. A ring hooked to the swivel snap can either be slipped over a stake driven into the ground for a cir-



Leash, sliding on cable between two stakes, allows pig a wide range of movement.



Single stake and leash makes it easy to move hog as needed.

cular grazing pattern, or a cable stretching between two stakes, lengthening the grazing area.

"At first, the pig will pull back and slip the collar unless it's tight. In about two days the collar can be loosened some. In seven to 10 days the pig will be broke and the collar needs to be loosened enough to prevent collar sores," he says "Once a hog is used to the collar, it will not pull back on it so it can be worn very loose."

A two-ply collar is necessary once the hog reaches 150 lbs. or more. The two-ply restraint is made by continuing to use the original 1-in. wide strap as the main collar, but adding a 2 1/2-in. wide "padding collar" underneath. Also made from harness leather, it can either be stitched on or slotted and slipped on. Gingerich says it keeps the 1-in. collar from digging in and causing sores.

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Wind-Powered Device Scares Deer Away

Garold Brunken had trouble keeping deer away from six new fruit trees his daughter planted until he hit on the idea of a wind-powered device to scare them away.

"I took the idea from an anemometer like the ones on weather sites," Brunken says. "I thought a bigger one would turn constantly to keep the deer out. The motion of the large barrels frightens the deer away."

Instead of the small cups used on regular wind measuring instruments, he used large plastic barrels. "The barrels are bright colored which makes them easy for the deer to see. And because they're lightweight, they really move fast with just a little wind," he says.

The barrel-halves are held in place by thin steel plates bolted to the ends of the barrels. The device mounts on a greaseable roller bearing so that it turns easily. The whole thing stands on a large steel "X" that keeps the barrels stable even in high winds.

"It is light enough to carry by hand if we need to move it to a different part of the farm," he notes. One of these devices is effective enough for a small orchard.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garold



Garold Brunken used large plastic barrels to make this wind-powered device that scares deer away.

Brunken, RR 2, Box 33, Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 (ph 217 567-3355).