



New pest bird eliminator more than pays for itself by reducing the spread of disease and minimizing the loss of feed.



BirdHazer is a 10 by 10-in. stainless steel box that weighs about 28 lbs. An automatic timer dispenses a chemical that birds find very irritating.

## Chemical Fogger Chases Birds From Buildings

By Dawn Throener,  
Associate Editor

Here's a bird-chasing idea developed by a Michigan company that they say works better than any method ever developed for getting pest birds out of buildings.

The BirdHazer installs up in the rafters – or any confined space where birds are a problem – and emits a fog of irritating smoke that sends sparrows, starlings, pigeons, and other flying rodents packing.

But it comes at a price that might be hard to justify – about \$4,000 for machinery and \$200 to \$250 a year for the chemical, depending on the barn size and bird problem. The company says the rising cost of diseases transferred from one farm to another makes it pay off. Birds also eat a lot of feed. For example, 1,000 starlings can eat a ton of feed a month.

The unit is basically a 10 by 10-in. stainless

steel box that weighs about 28 lbs. and comes with an automatic timer that dispenses Fog Force, a compound containing Methyl Anthranilate (MA).

It's a chemical that birds can not get used to, says BirdTec president Bruce Vergote.

MA comes from Concord grapes and orange blossoms. It's USDA and EPA approved and safe for all other creatures, including humans. It's basically artificial grape flavoring.

When BirdTec began working with MA, they learned it would get into the lungs of birds and mucus membranes around the eyes through the holes in their beaks.

"It's like the irritation we feel when we cut an onion open. You can't see it but your eyes start to water," he says, adding that MA affects birds the same way.

While there isn't a species of bird that the compound doesn't affect, how long it takes to affect them varies.

MA works on starlings immediately, Vergote says. It takes longer to scare off pigeons because of their homing instinct. If they've already nested, it's tougher to make them go. All other birds move fairly quickly out of treated areas.

When farmers ask how often they need to run it, Vergote tells them every situation is different. You just run it as often as necessary.

When beginning use, Vergote says customers turn it on when the birds are at their peak, which is right after feeding and just before dusk. During those times you would turn on the BirdHazer for two hours with the haze set to run 20 to 30 sec. with 3 to 5 min. breaks in between. After that, the

machine turns off automatically until the next day.

After most of the birds are gone, you set the machine on a maintenance schedule which could be half the original time.

When prospective customers order a BirdHazer, Vergote has them draw a diagram of their barn with information about any prevailing winds. After that, BirdTec designs a unit with the proper hardware for that installation.

A gallon of Fog Force costs \$120. The BirdHazer takes about a quart of chemical at a time.

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## Dead Pig Composter

Big livestock operations all have a common problem. What do you do with dead animals? For the Puratone Corporation of Niverville, Manitoba, the answer was the Biovator, a mechanical composter that mixes carcasses with wood chips inside a revolving insulated tube. Turn it on for a couple hours per day, and in 4 to 14 days you have compost.

"You can push about 300 lbs. of livestock through per day," says Darrel Koop, manager, Puratone Equipment Division. "You can add more in a single day, but we don't put in more than 2,100 lbs. per week."

With 22,000 sows in the Puratone operation, passive composting just didn't cut it. And if you call a rendering service, you may be inviting disease to your farm.

"The most important component of composting is turning," says Koop. "In passive composting, the first weeks of turning are messy. We have four hog units with passive composters, each with four separate cells, concrete floors and a roof. If we get too much rain, we have a fly problem. If the heat isn't high, we get rodent problems."

With the Biovator, Koop and his co-workers don't have to worry about either turning the compost or keeping the heat high enough to kill bacteria and cook the carcass. Turning is accomplished by a 1 hp motor, which is more than is needed to do the job. As the tube turns, material is not only tossed, but also moved down the tube.

Heat is also not a problem. The insulated sides keep the heat produced by the decomposing carcasses inside. Koop reports that the temperature rises to 170° in the summer and 120° in the winter.

By the time the material has moved down the line to the end of the cylinder, it has become a high quality compost that can be used



Turn the Biovator on for a couple hours per day, and in 4 to 14 days you have compost that looks like this.

for flower beds, mulch or erosion control. Puratone tests every batch they make in their operation for contaminants, and so far the tests have all come up negative.

The Biovators come in 20, 30 and 40-ft. long, 4-ft. dia. units. The smallest Biovator is marketed most often to poultry operations and sells for \$18,000 (all prices are Canadian). A 30-ft. unit is designed for farms with 6,000 feeder pigs or 1,500 to 2,000 sows with early wean barns and sells for about \$21,000. The \$25,000, 40-ft. unit is recommended for farms with more than 3,000 sows.

"We started three years ago, trying to build a mobile unit on the back of a truck," says Koop. "Now we have twelve 30-footers out and four more on the way. We cut our wood shavings costs to less than half of the old amount, and it only smells bad when the carcasses are first added. Within a day, there is hardly any smell."

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Biovator is a mechanical composter that mixes carcasses with wood chips inside a revolving insulated tube. It's turned by a 1 hp motor.

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our Website at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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