



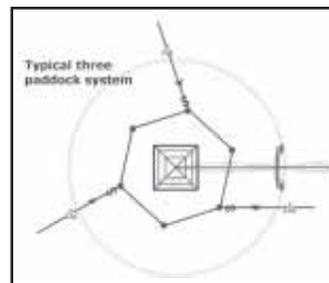
Pivot Post lets center pivot towers roll right over electric fence.



As pivot tower wheel presses on fence wire, the wire pulls post down flat on ground.



Once both pivot wheels have rolled over the wires, the post and fence spring back.



Irrigated circle can be divided into as many grazing cells as you want. Drawing shows a typical 3-paddock system.

“Pivot Post” Allows Rotational Grazing Under Center Pivot

Livestock producers in dryland areas who want to practice rotational grazing will like this new Pivot Post that lets center pivot towers roll right over electric fence. It allows you to divide an irrigated circle into as many grazing cells as you want.

The Pivot Post consists of a fiberglass post attached to a spring-loaded cast aluminum base that's anchored to the ground by a short length of steel post. The electric wire attaches to the fiberglass post with cotter keys. A conventional wooden post is used at the center of the pivot span, and a corner post is set

outside the circle.

The fiberglass post is placed 5 ft. from the outside of the wheel track. As the pivot tower wheel presses on the fence wire, the wire pulls the post down flat on the ground. Once both pivot wheels have rolled over the wires, the post - and the fence - springs back into position.

A wire diverter attaches to the base of each tower with four U-bolts. It pushes the wire down to keep it from catching on anything.

A spring and ratchet assembly at the end of each wire allows you to adjust wire ten-

sion. Support posts are installed halfway between each of the towers. As the fence is tipped over by the pivot wheels, the wires slide inside insulators on the posts.

According to the company, livestock won't cross the fence as the sprinkler is going over it, because they fear the wire and are afraid to touch or cross it even as the center pivot crosses over it. The company recommends the use of high tensile 12 1/2-gauge smooth wire. Two smooth fence wires are recommended to ensure that the pivot wheel catches

the wire.

The fence should be offset about 15 ft. from the center of the pivot so that all the towers don't cross the fence wires at the same time. This reduces stress on the wire and springs.

A variety of paddock setups are possible. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pivotal Fencing Systems, LLC, 10092 County Road 36, Yuma, Colo. 80759 (ph 970 848-5500; Website: www.pivotpost.com).



Nipple feeders are made out of 5-gal. plastic containers with screw lids. Plastic tubing runs from nipples to bottom of container, serving as straws to allow lambs to get all the milk.

Home-Built Nipple Feeder

Joyanne Brown of Vimy, Alberta was tired of getting “attacked” by her 13 orphan lambs every time she went to feed them their milk with a traditional upright nipple feeder pail.

Her husband, Lyle, solved her problem by putting together nipple feeders out of 5-gal. plastic containers with screw lids.

Lyle cut a 4 by 9-in. opening along one side of the container (which becomes the top of the horizontal feeder) to provide an opening big enough to pour milk into, but small enough to keep the lambs from jumping in. He then drilled four holes (spaced 3 in. apart) along each side of the container and installed self-sealing nipples (replacement nipples for commercial nipple pails).

Plastic tubing runs from the nipples to the bottom of the container, serving as straws to allow the lambs to get all of the milk.

He cut out 4 by 4-in. blocks of wood to cradle each end of the pail. He wrapped each block with a metal strap and then tied the blocks to the feeder by running a tarp strap around each end of the feeder and through the metal straps on the blocks.

“It's easy to unhook the tarp strap when you need to wash out the feeder,” Joyanne explains. “I feed three times a day, but only wash the unit every second day because the milk doesn't sour in our unheated barn. I also mix in one drop of formaldehyde for every litre of milk fed. This prevents bacteria from growing, but doesn't hurt the lambs.”

Lyle made two of the feeders, so they have room for 16 lambs. Joyanne fills the feeders



Brown cut a 4 by 9-in. opening in top of feeder. It's large enough to pour milk into, but small enough to keep lambs from jumping in.

with milk first, and then releases the lambs from their pen so she can stay clear of the feeding frenzy.

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Harlan Downing equipped his tractors with the Trimble AgGPS Autopilot system. It lets him lay underground irrigation tape in precise rows.

GPS Makes Underground Drip Irrigation Work

A Kansas farmer is making an expensive Trimble AgGPS Autopilot system pay off by using it to lay underground irrigation tape in precise rows.

“It lets us map out exactly where the tape is so we can plow right up next to it without worrying about damaging it,” says Harlan Downing.

He has equipped his tractors with Trimble's system. He says he's seen real moisture and compaction control benefits using Autopilot to strip-till and plant. Even his sprayer and grain cart stay in designated traffic patterns in the fields.

Underground drip tape is buried 16 in. deep. Max Bell, owner of Western Sprinklers, Inc., of Colby, Kansas, says, “As water comes up from that depth, it eliminates the plow pan. With automatic steering, we know where the tape is so we can space the rows exactly 15 in. to either side of the tape on 60-in. centers.”

Without indexing and automatic steering, some plants will dominate the available water, while others will be too far away.

“If you get even 10 in. off center, you end up with corduroy growth,” says Downing. “With Autopilot, we are basically right on the line, maybe 0.4 in. left or right.”

Downing admits that drip is still too expensive for production grain systems, and Bell agrees.

“Drip irrigation has some merit with smaller 20 to 30-acre fields now, but on larger fields drip is still too expensive,” says Bell.



“GPS lets us map out exactly where the tape is so we can plow right up next to it without worrying about damaging it,” says Downing.



Underground drip tape is buried 16 in. deep.

In the meantime, Downing plans to put in more drip irrigation this coming year for vegetable crops.

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