

Trap And Video Guaranteed To Stop Moles

Jon Schroedl guarantees he can take care of any mole problem.

"My wife, Wanda, and I have been successfully trapping moles for years, using methods and a scissors-type trap that we invented," says Schroedl, of Snohomish, Washington.

Schroedl worked on the trap for several years before finally applying for a patent on it three years ago. He says their JS2000 mole trap is easier to set and safer for the mole trapper than any other trap on the market.

The Schroedls believe the main reason many people fail in their efforts to trap moles is that they don't understand where and how

to place traps. To solve the problem, they produced a video, available with their trap that teaches mole trapping techniques.

"They're so confident it will help you clear up your mole problems that they offer a 100 percent money-back guarantee on the trap-video combination. Of course, you can buy JS2000 traps without the video, but you'll not get the guarantee. The Schroedls have contracted with a manufacturer and are making the trap and video available to distributors and retail outlets.

"We have the Pacific Northwest covered now, and soon the trap and trap-video combo should be available all over the U.S. and

Canada," Schroedl says. The Schroedls' Website, www.moleproblem.com, is currently under construction, but should be operating by early March.

Check there or call the toll-free number for information on availability in your area.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jon and Wanda Schroedl, 6014 95th Drive S.E., Snohomish, Wash. 98290 (ph 888 252-9800 or 360 568-9738; E-mail: shagans@hotmail.com; Website: www.moleproblem.com or www.moleproblemnoproblem.com).



Schroedl and his wife have been trapping moles for years, using a scissors-type trap and their own special methods.

Rocks Don't Stop This Bean Cutter

Harvesting dry edible beans in rocky or sandy soil can be tough on machinery. Gary Bowman, Dietrich, Idaho tried several pieces of commercial equipment before he built his own bean cutter out of an old sugar beet topper.

"Most bean cutters use a blade or rod to cut off the entire plant below the surface. On our rocky ground, that doesn't work very well," says Bowman.

He and his son Brian needed something that would skim the surface and yet stand up to the rocks poking through or lying on the surface. He started with a 6-row Lockwood sugar beet topper designed to beat the leaves off sugar beets and then "scalp" the tops off. He stripped off the scalping unit, which included individual hydraulic motors for each blade, and remounted them on a 5-ft. wide toolbar on front of a Deere 2840 tractor. The scalper was then remounted to 5-ft. long, 4-in. sq. tubing mounted on the front end of a John Deere 2840. A hydraulic ram raises and lowers the scalper as needed.

He replaced the scalping blades with flatter, 14-in. discs off a Deere offset disk. The slightly notched discs have a saw tooth effect and also help push the cut plants over. Switching hydraulic lines on every other motor reversed the direction of spin and turned the cutter into a cutter/windrower.

"Every pair of discs turns toward each other, pushing their two rows together," says Bowman. "We get three windrows with every pass, and because the unit is mounted on the front of the tractor, we don't need dividers to push plants aside for the tractor wheels."

Bowman adjusted for surface rocks by suspending the blade units from a chain and a spring. When a spinning blade hits a rock, it slides up and over the rock, falling back into position and following the contour of the



Gary Bowman built his own bean cutter out of an old sugar beet topper. He stripped off the scalping unit and remounted it on a 5-ft. wide toolbar on front of his tractor.



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ground as it moves along.

"It cuts beans when they are green, which you should do, but it's also gentle enough to cut them when they are dry and yet not shatter the beans out of the pod," says Bowman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Bowman, 216 E. Dietrich, Idaho 83324 (ph 208 544-2130).

"Safe" Mailbox Lets You Look Inside

After September 11 and the mailbox bomber scare that came after it, Roger Schafer started thinking about how he could make rural mailboxes less of a target for terrorists and crazy men.

The goal was to be able to see inside but not show everyone in the neighborhood your mail. His answer was simple: He cut small holes in the front and back of a standard mailbox using tin snips and then covered the holes with clear plexiglass that he bought at a farm supply store.

He simply attached the plexiglass to the mailbox with an epoxy adhesive.

"It lets both you and the postal carrier look inside before opening," notes Schafer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Schafer, 16476 Hawk Dr., Birmingham, Iowa 52535).



There are holes in front and back of mailbox that you peek inside before opening.

Small Square Bale Cart

You can save wear and tear on your back when moving 2 or 3-tie small square bales by using this new Bale Kart.

It lets you lift a bale from the ground and rotate it a quarter turn, allowing you to move the cart through narrow doorways or gates. With the bale contained in the basket, the ties can be removed allowing the hay to be fed out as needed. Any remaining hay can be left in the basket for the next feeding.

To load the bale, you tip the cart down so the basket lays on the ground and then tip the bale into it. The weight of the bale holds it tight against the back side of the frame (with 3-tie bales, a T-shaped metal pin on the left side of the basket may be used to hold the bale in place as you tip the basket back up). To rotate the bale you simply push your hand against one end. Metal stops on a swivel plate keep the bale from rotating too far.

Sells for \$275 plus S&H.

The company makes another cart that lets you lift bales off the ground and move them without ever touching the bale. The cart is equipped with a 2-position handle. With the handle in its lowest position you push the forks into the bale. Raising the handle to a higher position allows you to raise the bale off the ground. The process is reversed to unload the bale.

Sells for \$185 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bale Kart, 5871 Reno Hwy., Fallon, Nevada 89406



After lifting bale, cradle turns 90 degrees so you can push cart through narrow doorways or gates.

(ph/fax 775 423-3996; E-mail: info@balekart.com; Website: www.balekart.com).

"Made-It-Myself" Bale Wrapper

Wanting to have better quality forage for his small dairy herd, David Geertson, Branchport, New York, went looking for a wrapper to cover his round bales with plastic.

"If you can wrap the bales for balage, you don't need to wait for hay to dry before baling. It reduces the effect of weather on feed quality," he notes.

But the \$3,000 price tag on a commercial tractor-mounted wrapper was hard for him to justify. So Geertson decided he could make a wrapper just as good in his shop.

He used parts from a junked New Holland ground-driven manure spreader and an IH no. 15 forage chopper.

He made a 3-pt. frame from the old silage chopper and fitted it with a bale spear made from the rear axle of the manure spreader, leaving the drive sprocket in place. A hydraulic motor turns the spear, via a large drive chain he took off the spreader. "It takes a big roller chain to spin the bale," he notes.

He added a spool to hold a 30-in. roll of plastic, and hung that on a sliding bracket on a 5-ft. length of pipe. "I made the spool and bracket out of pipe and flat steel. To keep tension on the roll as I turn the bale, I used a clamp from an old silo hoop," he says.

Geertson says wrapping a bale takes only a couple of minutes after you've picked it up



Using parts from a junked New Holland ground-driven manure spreader and an IH forage chopper, David Geertson built his own bale wrapper.

with the spear. "It works best with two people. One runs the hydraulics. The other fastens the end of the plastic to the bale manually and then moves the carrier with the plastic roll along the support arm to wrap the bale. We wrap about a foot along each end of the bale and then push the bales together in a line to seal them off for fermentation."

Geertson figures his wrapper cost no more than \$300 to make, and took about 40 hours to build.

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