



“Zap Gate” is an electric fence gate that retracts like a tape measure. It’ll never drop to the ground and get accidentally driven over.

Retractable Electric Fence Gate

This new retractable electric fence gate retracts like a tape measure, which is why it’ll never drop to the ground and short out the fence or get accidentally driven over.

The “Zap Gate” is designed to attach to an existing fence. It consists of a yellow spring-loaded cartridge that winds up highly visible, 1-in. wide poly electric fence wire with a black plastic handle and hook attached to it. The handle can be stretched out from 2 to 20 ft. The cartridge wires to the existing electric

fence. Poly insulators attach the cartridge to either wood or T-posts. The cartridge is free to swivel up to 180 degrees on the insulators, allowing the fence to cover multiple gate openings. A built-in operating light lets you know if the fence is hot.

Sells for \$39.95 plus S&H.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Hoepfner, 7796 Oak Spring Circle, Gilroy, Calif. 95020 (ph 408 847-7615; whiteranch1@q.com; www.zapgate.com).



Only about 6 in. of the rock in this photo was originally above ground. Edes used a shovel to dig the rock out, then used the log hauler to lift it up and away.

Log Arch Works Great For Hauling Big Rocks

Joe Edes wanted to haul big rocks out of a field to his back yard to build a rock garden. Some of the rocks weighed up to 2,500 lbs. The Dexter, Maine, man decided the best way to do the job was to use a commercial log hauling arch.

The 2-wheeled log hauler he used is equipped with a heavy duty winch and tongs and is designed to be pulled by an ATV or pickup. It’s made by Thomas Bandsaw Mills of Brooks, Maine (ph 866 722-3505; www.Thomasbandsawmills.com).

The open center log hauler has a 2,200-lb., two-gear hand winch that mounts on front. The lift point can be repositioned anywhere along the frame by pulling a pin, sliding a pulley either forward or backward, and reinserting the pin.

To lift rocks, Edes modified the log hauler by bolting a couple of 4-ft. lift jacks on top of the unit’s side rails. He bolted a wooden 2 by 4 on top of both jacks to hold them stable, and he also slipped a length of metal tubing onto the jacks’ lift arms. A chain attached to the tubing goes around the rock.

He positions the pulley on back of the unit and attaches tongs to the cable. Then he uses the winch to lift the rock out of the ground.

Once the rock is lifted about 6 in., he slips a chain under it and attaches chain to the tubing. Then he jacks the rock up further off the ground and is ready to drive away with it.

“I used it last summer to move about 30

rocks, some of them 300 yards away,” says Edes. “The biggest one weighed 2,500 lbs. The rocks were in a big pile on some land that I had just bought. I hauled them into my back yard and rearranged them to form a rock garden and pool. I didn’t want to use a backhoe or excavator because the ground was wet and the machines would have left deep wheel ruts. Also, it was easier to arrange the rocks with a small machine. I used my White garden tractor to pull the arch when hauling small rocks, and my Ford Explorer or Jeep for larger rocks.”

To get an idea just how heavy the rocks were, Edes bought a weigh scale from Northern Tool that’s rated to 5,000 lbs. He paid \$1,175 for the log hauler and \$265 for the weigh scale.

He says you have to be careful when using the high-lift jacks, which can raise objects up to 4 ft. “As a safety precaution, I insert a steel pin into holes in each jack as they go up in case they would ever let go.”

The inventor of the log hauler, John Thomas, says it has been on the market since 1999. He also offers a smaller unit designed to drag one end of the log on the ground. It sells for \$575 plus S&H. A hand winch and cable is available for \$75 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Edes, 16 Sunrise Ave., Dexter, Maine 04930 (ph 207 924-6222; dextergardener@yahoo.com).



Stove has a series of open holes on front and a built-in “recovery unit” on top (left). Evenly-spaced tubes run horizontally through recovery unit and into a manifold on back (right).

“No Waste” Wood Stove Heats House, Garage

Ray Bjorgaard of De Soto, Kansas, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a “no waste” wood stove heating system that he uses to heat his entire 2,600 sq. ft. earth-sheltered house, as well as a 3-car attached garage.

The key to success of the stove is how hot air is pulled off the outside of it and distributed throughout the house by an ingenious series of ductwork.

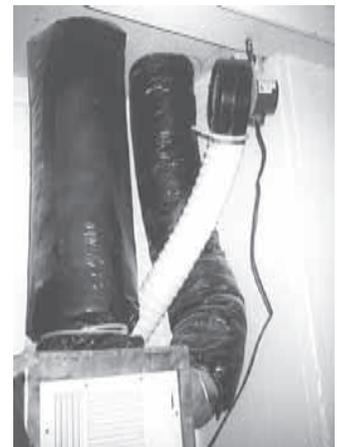
The brick-lined stove stands in the living room. It has a series of open holes on front and a built-in “recovery unit” on top that measures 10 in. sq. and 24 in. high. Eighteen evenly-spaced 10-in. long, 1 1/4-in. dia. tubes run horizontally through the recovery unit and into a manifold on back. Air is blown into the manifold by a fan in the garage (on the other side of the living room wall), pushing hot air out into the room through the pipes in the heat recovery unit and the holes on front of the stove.

A large vent in the ceiling directly above the stove leads to a 20-in. sq. fan box in the attic. Flexible 8-in. dia. tubes exit each side of the box, distributing the warm air throughout the house. Feeder tubes break off to heat other rooms. A filter in the fan box over the stove keeps dust from the wood stove from blowing all over the house.

The garage itself is heated by the stove-pipe, which goes out the wall into the garage. A heat pump recovery unit in the garage ties into the attic ductwork and can be used for both supplementary heating in winter and cooling in summer.

“Two 8-in. dia. 300 cfm fans in the attic run 24 hours a day all year long to keep air moving,” says Bjorgaard. “The wood stove was built for a local church. When natural gas became available, the church put the stove up for sale. I happened to be building my house at the same time so I bought it.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Bjorgaard, 10060 Waverly Rd., De Soto, Kansas 66018 (ph 913 583-1744).



Air is blown into manifold by a fan in the garage (on other side of living room wall), pushing hot air out into the room through the pipes in the heat recovery unit and the holes on front of the stove.



A large vent in the ceiling directly above stove leads to a 20-in. sq. fan box in attic.

PVC Feeder For Chickens

We spotted this inexpensive pvc chicken feeder in Backyard Poultry magazine (www.backyardpoultry.com).

The feeder consists of a pair of L-shaped pvc pipes strapped to a block of wood, and then attached to the wall of the chicken coop. The bottom end of each pipe is capped off, and a slot is cut into the horizontal part of each pipe where chickens eat. The owner feeds grit in one tube and calcium in the other. It pressure-feeds itself down the tube and lasts a long time before needing a refill. Reprinted courtesy Countryside Magazine (www.countrysidemag.com)



Feeder consists of a pair of L-shaped pvc pipes. Slot is cut into horizontal part of each pipe where chickens eat.