



Hydraulic-powered spinning tractor tire rim, activated by flipping a toggle switch, is used to roll up barbed wire.

He Rolls Up Wire At 10 MPH

When Fred Davison needs to roll up barbed wire, he hops in his old pickup, flips a toggle switch and starts driving. The wire wraps around a hydraulic-powered spinning tractor tire rim that spins on the arm of an old Dew Eze hydraulic bale handler.

"It can roll up wire at 10 mph and go around corners without stopping," says the Highwood, Montana, rancher.

Davison says the key is a variable pressure relief valve, which keeps an even pressure on the wire to wrap it tightly on the rim, no matter what speed he travels.

Davison built the device when he had to move 3/4 mile of barbed wire fence. "I wanted to make a good roll, so I could re-use the wire later," he says.

He works with one strand of wire at a time, laying the wire on the ground and keeping the end attached to the last post. He runs the wire through a guide in front of the tire rim and uses Vise Grip pliers to attach the wire to the edge of the rim.

He flips the toggle switch in his cab to engage the hydraulic motor to spin the rim and drives along.

He can wrap about 1/4 mile of wire on the rim. He was surprised how easy it is to work around corners.

To remove the wire rolls, he swings the rim down to the ground behind the pickup with the bale arm. He unbolts the strapping holding the wire on the rim and slips the neatly rolled wire off. He bolts the strapping back on, swings the rim back in place, and he's



Wire is run through a guide in front of the tire rim.

ready to go again.

Davison says his device works just as well unrolling the wire to put fence up.

"I like things easy," says Davison, 77, who is a member of an inventors group and has won honors for agriculture innovations. "This is the best roller upper I've ever seen or used."

Plans are available on how to fabricate the unit.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Davison, Many Hills Ranch, 1979 Upper Highwood Creek Road, Highwood, Montana 59450 (ph 406 733-5031; davisonfred@yahoo.com).

Fencing Tips for Rocky Terrain

Michael Thomas, who ranches near Salmon, Idaho, has been building fence all his life in very rocky terrain. In solid rock he uses a rotohammer electric drill, which runs off a portable generator, to drill a small diameter hole to insert a steel or wood post.

If there are a lot of surface rocks around, you can make a wire cage 3 to 4 ft. in diameter and fill it with rocks to anchor a corner post, notes Thomas.

One method that works well when using a tractor-powered post pounder to set wood posts is to use a metal shaft to create a pilot hole - if you're not in solid bedrock. It will push through small rocks or penetrate frozen ground. One of Thomas' neighbors made a 7-ft. tall metal pilot post to create holes for wood posts, and Thomas borrows it on occasion for tough fencing jobs.

"The pilot post is like a wood post but only about three or four inches in diameter and creates a hole to put the wood post into. The metal post is solid enough you can drive it into just about anything but solid rock. The pointed bottom part is solid steel about three feet long, and the rest of



A 7-ft. metal shaft can be used to create pilot holes for wood posts, says Thomas.

the post is hollow like well casing. The top has a solid cap on it for the post pounder to hit. That makes it a little lighter to carry, but it's still very heavy," says Thomas.

Propane-Heated Livestock Waterer

Anyone who raises livestock where electricity isn't available will be interested in this new propane-heated waterer. It uses liquid propane to heat water in a 30-gal. metal tank equipped with a burner.

"It eliminates the need to break ice on water tanks during the winter," says inventor Roy Yoder, Fredericksburg, Ohio.

Yoder is Amish and also raises whitetail deer in remote pens over a wide area, which is why he came up with the idea. "We have 13 of these propane-heated waterers on our farm, and they work great. No one else was making them, so we decided to," says Yoder.

The burner sets inside a metal box welded to one corner of the tank. The box has a sliding door on one side that can be opened to provide air to the burner. To heat the water you simply open the valve on the propane tank and then hold a match to the burner.

"On our own farm we set the propane tank outside the fence where the deer can't damage it. A 100-gal. propane tank will last 30 to 40 days," says Yoder.

Sells for \$250 plus S&H. Does not include propane tank.



Liquid propane heats water in tank, which is equipped with a burner that sets inside a metal box welded to one corner of tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roy Yoder, Redoy Acres, 4734 TR 613, Fredericksburg, Ohio 44627 (ph 330 695-4833 or 330 231-0983; redoy@valkyrie.net).



"Track drag" uses 4 1/2-in. long angled steel spikes to loosen the soil.

Home-Built "Track Drag"

Morrisville State College in Morrisville, New York, is known for its horse training program. Jim Taylor teaches advanced welding at the college and recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a "track drag" that he and his students put together for the college's horse arena.

The drag is designed to be pulled by a 4-wheeler or utility vehicle. "It loosens and fluffs the soil to provide better footing for the animals," says Taylor.

The track drag measures 6 ft. long by 2 ft. deep and is pulled by a chain and clevis. Its frame is made from angle iron, 1/2-in. sq. tubing, and 1/4 by 1-in. flat bar. The front

part of the drag is equipped with four 4 1/2-in. long, angled steel spikes made from 1/2-in. sq. tubing and spaced 1 ft. apart. A length of angle iron in the middle is used to grade the soil, and the flat bar on back is used to fluff it up.

Panel fencing is welded onto the top of the unit where rocks can be added for extra weight. A square metal "bumper" on both front corners keeps the drag from catching on anything.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Taylor, P. O. Box 123, Bouckville, N.Y. 13310 (ph 315 527-8262; Taylorjd@Morrisville.edu).

Heavy-Duty Hitch Pin Lock

You'll never lose a wagon again, says Ken Harwick, inventor of the "Hitch Pin Plus", a "seatbelt" for hitch pins that keeps them from popping loose in the field. It also makes it easy to lock a wagon in place with a padlock.

It's designed for D-handled pins up to 1 1/8-in. dia. Once the pin is in place, the lock simply fits over the bottom of the pin and slips in through the handle, held in place with a lynch pin.

"I got the idea after I destroyed a wagon gear and hay rack while baling ditch hay several years ago," says Harwick. "I came up with a design that's simple and easy to use on all pins up to 1 1/8 in. dia.

Sells for \$12 each plus S&H.
Contact: Ken Harwick, 724 7th Ave., Madison, Minn. 56256 (ph 320-698-3268).



Simple locking bar keeps equipment safely secured to tractor.