



StretchMaster 100 is designed to unroll woven wire up to 5 ft. high. Since it rides on the front-end loader, it can be used to hang a second roll above the first for fences up to 10 ft. high.

## Fencing Pro Sells His Own Equipment

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Professional fencer Mark Beem has put up more than 2,000 miles of fence in the past 20 years. He designed and built his own equipment and is constantly refining it to build better fences faster.

"When I started fencing 20 years ago, there was nothing like this equipment available," says Beem. "I made my own and it worked out so well we started selling what we designed."

The StretchMaster 100 unrolls wire. It rides on loader-mounted pallet forks. The operator simply tips the bucket and spears the fencing roll to load it. Once the roll is tipped back upright and the end of the roll attached to the starter corner post, the netting feeds through the stretcher mechanism and to the side as the tractor drives forward. To stretch the fence, the operator activates two hydraulic cylinders. A single piece of square tubing pushes into the fence and against two stationary tubes. As the tractor moves forward, the fence stretches in place until the operator stops and attaches the fence to the intervening posts.

"You can use it for a single roll of barbed or smooth wire as well as a roll of netting," explains Beem. "If you come to an inside curve in the fence line, you just lift the StretchMaster over the posts on the curve and continue on past."

The StretchMaster 100 is designed for woven wire up to 5 ft. high. Its 700-lb. weight allows it to be used with most small

front-end loaders and skid steers. Since it rides on a front-end loader, it can be used to hang a second roll above the first for fences of up to 10 ft. high. A larger unit, designed for custom fence builders, handles wire rolls up to 10 ft. tall.

Another wire handler, the RollMaster, winds up and removes woven or chain-link fence up to 4 ft. high or single strands of wire. Customizing options allow it to be used on fence up to 10 ft. high. Hydraulic controls rewind the fence taut for easy reuse. The unit weighs about 400 lbs., light enough to be used with a small front-end loader or skid steer.

The PostPounder is a hands-free wood and steel post driver that tilts 4 ways. Extensions are available to drive posts up to 18 ft. long. Beem says it can drive up to 40 posts per hour in average soil conditions. The 4-way tilt lets you work on rough terrain. It can also be used to "bend" steel posts as needed.

Beem is especially proud of his latest innovation, the T-PostPounder. The manual pounder has a unique loading chamber with a piano hinged door on the side.

"The side loading T-PostPounder is safer and easier to load," notes Beem. "When finished driving the post, simply open the loading door and slide the pounder off to the side."

The T-PostPounder is available in two sizes. The standard size is 4 ft. long, weighs 35 lbs. and is designed for driving posts up to



Optional attachments lets you put up rolls of wire up to 10 ft. high. Loading a roll of wire on to Beem's fencing units is easy. Just tip the front end loader down and spear the roll.



Extensions for the PostPounder (left) are available to drive posts up to 18 ft. long. The T-PostPounder (right) is a manual pounder that has a hinged opening on one side that makes it easy to place over post.

8 ft. in length. The large version is 8 ft. long, weighs 55 lbs. and is designed for posts up to 10 ft. long.

The company has a distributor in the northeast U.S., but is currently looking for distributors in other areas. The Stretchmaster 100 is priced at \$4,000, while the larger version is priced at \$12,000. The RollMaster



sells for \$3,000. The power PostPounder is priced at \$12,000. The 4-ft. T-PostPounder has an \$89 price with the 8-ft. version priced at \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Beem Fence Company, 861 North Green Road, Lake City, Mich. 49651 (ph 231 510-8122; www.beemfence.com).

## "Leverage Axe" Splits Wood In A New Way

This new-style axe from Finland uses leverage to split wood, making it much easier to use, says the manufacturer.

The new axe head attaches to the handle from the side, creating an off-line center of gravity. As the blade strikes the log it begins to incline, creating torque that multiplies the splitting force and also frees the blade from the wood.

"As far as I know it's the only wood splitting tool that uses the principle of leverage," says inventor Heikki Karna. "There's almost no friction, which results in much more splitting power than a conventional axe. Another advantage is the blade doesn't stick in the block, so you don't have to spend time trying to pull the blade out. It's virtually impossible to hurt yourself, because the blade stops on the block without going all the way through it."

Another advantage is that your hands won't get sore, even after many hours of splitting.

"Due to the gradual slowing of the axe via the rotational movement, there's no abrupt shock as with conventional axes, making the Leverage axe more comfortable to use," says Karna.

The axe also has a longer handle, which makes it easier to swing. "Even if you don't hit the target it isn't a problem, because the long handle drives the blade into the ground in front of you," he says. "A protective sleeve for the handle is designed to prevent damage to the handle from possible missed strikes."

The Leverage sells for \$211.87 plus \$64.29 S&H. Check out the videos on YouTube.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vipukirves Heikki Oy, Heikki Karna, Gumbontie 139, 01120 Vastarskog, Sipoo, Finland (ph 011 358 9 877 9152; GSM 050 432 3250; vipukirves@elisanet.fi; www.vipukirves.fi/English/index.htm).



Axe head attaches to handle from the side, creating an off-line center of gravity (left). As axe strikes log it begins to incline, creating torque that multiplies the splitting force.



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