



Bill Bartlett modified a high-rise 1960's sprayer to place bird netting over 5 acres of blueberry bushes.



Photos by Peter Martin

Tricycle rig was originally used to go over sweet corn with drop nozzles. Bartlett took the tank and booms off and built a rack to hold a roll of netting.

Old Sprayer Helps Roll Out Bird Netting

It used to take 2 to 3 weeks to place netting over five acres of blueberry bushes. Since Bill Bartlett modified a high-rise 1960's sprayer, a few workers get the job done in 4 to 5 hours.

The Newport, N.H., U-pick farm owner says he had to find something to protect his blueberries from the birds after a bird control product was taken off the market. He wasn't happy with the available options: a netting that stretched up to 50 ft. and required structures to hold it up, or 5,000-ft. rolls of 17-ft. wide netting that caught on the bushes

as it was unrolled from a front-end loader.

The sprayer provided a better way to get the job done.

"It was a tricycle rig designed to go over sweet corn with drop nozzles," Bartlett explains. "I took the tank and booms off and built a rack to hold the roll of netting."

The sprayer straddles the bushes with the netting roll raised 10 ft. high, and he backs up the unit. The netting unrolls over polyethylene wires strung every 16 ft. It starts at the end with posts 8 ft. apart that are 4 ft.

in the ground.

"Make the posts solid," Bartlett says. "The foundation is the most important thing."

With rows 8 ft. apart there is 6 in. on both sides to overlap the netting. Six helpers follow Bartlett and the sprayer to secure the netting overlap to attach the netting to the wires with short pointed dowels. Netting is also unrolled along the sides of the rows.

Bartlett puts the netting on when the blueberries first start to ripen around the Fourth of July, and the process is reversed to

roll up the netting at the end of the harvest.

The sprayer has made netting his crop much easier, Bartlett says, and it's high enough to work under. It could be easily adapted for other high-value crops.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Bartlett, 648 Bradford Rd., Newport, N.H. 03773 (ph 603 863-2583; www.bartlettsblueberryfarm.com).

Tool Arm Cutter Makes Ditch Side Care Easy

Mowing the steepest roadsides is as easy as mowing a flat lawn with the Thrifty Tool Arm for rotary mowers from M.K. Martin Enterprise. The tool arm mower-mount can flex a negative 55 degrees on a road ditch with the cylinder extended. Retract the cylinder, and the tool arm will tip the mower 90 degrees to mow a near vertical bank.

"The Thrifty Tool Arm has been popular in the municipal market as well as with private landowners," says Keith Martin. "It's handy for mowing around buildings and obstructions, but private landowners especially like it for cleaning up fence rows. Equipped with our rotary mower, it can handle brush stems up to 1 in. in diameter."

The Thrifty 4 Tool Arm can carry up to a 4-ft. rotary mower. It's designed for tractors from 30 to 40 hp and a minimum weight of

3,600 lbs. Front counterweights are required.

The Thrifty 5-6 Tool Arm can carry a 5-ft. rotary mower on tractors with a minimum of 60 hp or a 6-ft. mower on tractors with a minimum of 80 hp.

Martin says transport is easy and safe with the Tool Arm. The operator raises the mower into the 90-degree vertical position, and disconnects the pto shaft. The mower is then folded around and against the rear of the tractor and locked into transport position.

"This puts the mower and arm weight close to the centerline of the tractor for stability," explains Martin. "It also reduces the profile to the width of the tractor during transit."

The Thrifty 4 Tool Arm is priced at \$4,100, and the Thrifty 5-6 is priced at \$4,500. The 48-in. mower is priced at \$1,200, the 60-in. mower is \$1,250, and the 72-in. mower is



By extending or retracting a cylinder, mower can be tipped 90 degrees to cut nearly vertical bank.

\$1,900.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M.K. Martin Enterprise, 3950 Steffler Rd., Elmira,

Ont., Canada N3B 2Z3 (ph 519 664-2752; sales@mkmartin.ca; www.mkmartin.ca).

Rubber Fence Insulator Attaches Anywhere

"Our new strap-type electric fence insulator works on everything from side roll wheel irrigation lines to wood posts, vinyl and chain link fences, or any place you need to string an electric fence," says Jake Wadsworth, Wadsworth Mfg., St. Ignatius, Mont.

The rubber insulator straps are 14 in. long and work similar to a plastic zip strip. It has two locking straps on it. The short strap holds the wire in place and the long strap goes around the post, or whatever you're hanging the wire on. A series of locking tabs hold the straps in place.

Sells for \$1.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wadsworth Mfg., 35008 Dublin Gulch Road, St. Ignatius, Mont. 59865 (ph 800 535-2428; jake@charlo.net; www.cattlebanders.com).



Electric fence insulator uses 14-in. long rubber straps that work similar to a plastic zip strip.



Darryl Pierce built this trailer to move newborn calves into his barn. It has a drop-down tailgate and can also be tilted on the axle.

Handy Calf Trailer

"Moving newborn calves into our barn was always a 2-man job. So I used scrap metal to build a low-cost trailer to do the job. I pull it with an ATV or my Kubota RTV 900 utility vehicle," says Darryl Pierce, Straughn, Ind.

The trailer's frame is built from 1 1/2-in. box steel. The sides are old fence panels that were cut to fit and welded in place. The trailer

has a drop-down tailgate and can also be tilted on the axle.

"The only new parts are the wheels and tires, which I bought at a discount tool wholesaler for \$65," says Pierce.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darryl G. Pierce, 4906 E. Co. Line Road, Straughn, Ind. 47387 (ph 765 332-2089).