

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



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

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).

"Poor Man's" Wrapper Rolls Bale On The Ground

The high cost of commercial bale wrappers prompted a Pennsylvania inventor to build this simple, low-cost bale wrapper. He says it gets the job done for a fraction of the cost of commercial table-type wrappers.

The patent pending "Roll 'n Wrap" mounts on either the tractor's 3-pt. hitch or a skid loader and wraps and stacks bales in one automatic operation. Instead of a roller table to rotate the bale while it's wrapped, the operator simply pushes the bale along the ground while a rotating arm swings around the bale with a roll of plastic. A pair of angled rollers keep the bale centered between the two bale-wrap arms.

Once the bale is wrapped, the clamp arm cuts off the end of the plastic and holds it for the next bale. The unit is powered by the tractor's hydraulics.

"It eliminates the step of loading the bale onto the machine and is a practical and affordable wrapper for the average farmer," says inventor Jeffrey Sadler. "The operator never has to get off the tractor. A roller just above the ground pushes the bale along. It'll

handle 5 by 4-ft., 4 by 4-ft., or 4 by 3-ft. bales. It takes only about one minute to wrap a bale.

"The machine weighs only 500 lbs. Other bale wrappers need a 100 hp tractor because the table sets several feet in back and is also used to load the bale, which adds a tremendous amount of weight. With this machine, you're not lifting the bale, so a 50 hp tractor is adequate. It also has fewer moving parts, which reduces maintenance costs. And it allows you to use a smaller tractor."

Sadler says the operator determines the number of wraps by adjusting his ground speed to the rotational speed of the rotating arm. The speed of the arm is also adjusted by turning a knob.

An adapter plate is available to mount the unit on a skid loader. "We've also tried



Instead of a roller table to rotate bale while it's wrapped, operator simply pushes bale along the ground while a rotating arm swings around bale with a roll of plastic.

using the unit on a tractor loader, but found it works better on a skid loader because you can see what's happening right in front of you," notes Sadler.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeffrey Sadler, Meadow View Welding, 8069 Rt. 235, Thompsettown, Penn. 17094 (ph 717 463-0047).