

Tractor "Yarn Bombed" By Crafters

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Yarn bombing is like graffiti art but instead of spray paint, the "vandals" are crafters who cover objects with knitted or crocheted designs. The idea got its start in 2004 in the Netherlands. Needle-wielding women covered everything from lamp posts, hydrants and mailboxes to cars, buses and fences in cities across the world. But recently, a group of Irish crafters made it more interesting when they decided to yarn bomb a 1947 Ferguson 20 tractor to celebrate their group's first anniversary with a fundraiser for local charities.

"We chose a tractor because Athenry is a farming community, and we thought we could make people smile," explains Ashla Ward. She presented the idea to Athenry Craft and Chat, a group that meets weekly to work on their own projects as well as occasional charity projects.

With a rainbow of donated yarn, each of the 29 members selected tractor parts and took measurements.

"Each crafter interpreted it as they felt their skills and yarn would fit," Ward says.

"Overall the plan was to have something as bright and eye-catching as possible with a sense of fun."

Members knitted and crocheted from March to late June and completed the "tractor sweater" – with one small glitch.

"At the dress rehearsal we realized that there were additional pieces needed, so it was all hands on deck for two weeks to sort that out," Ward says. It took 10 women about 3 hrs. to sew the pieces on to the tractor.

The tractor yarn bomb was a hit at local ag shows. Visitors could toss freewill donations into a bucket next to the tractor. The donations were split between a cancer center, hospice and community center.

"I would love for some of your readers to yarn bomb something agricultural in the U.S. and send us a picture. That would be great fun for us!" she says.

Sticking with agriculture may be safer than some urban projects. Canadian knitter Leanne Prain co-published a coffee-table book about yarn bombing and tells a story of how she almost got in trouble when she tried to yarn



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bomb a sign post in front of FBI headquarters in Washington. A guard in a bulletproof vest told her to stop immediately.

"Ma'am," he said, "step away from the

knitting."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ashla Ward, Mountgarrett, Athenry, Co Galway, Ireland (ashlaward@yahoo.com).

Dog Decoy comes with a steel spring that mounts on a short wooden dowel stake. Even a slight breeze will cause the dog to move and make it appear real and a threat to geese and deer.



"Dog Decoy" Chases Geese, Deer Away

If you've got geese or deer problems, you'll be interested in this new Dog Decoy, a weather resistant plastic dog silhouette that bobs up and down and from side to side in the wind.

The Dog Decoy measures 24 in. high and 34 in. long from nose to tail. It comes with an industrial strength steel spring that mounts on a short wooden dowel stake. Even a slight breeze will cause the dog to move and make it appear real and a threat to geese and deer. They won't come back as long as the dog silhouette is in place, says the company.

To install, pound the stake into the ground and set the spring onto the stake. The dog's feet should be 1 to 2 in. above the grass to allow the dog to move freely in the wind.

According to the company, dogs are the number one predator of geese. Unlike dogs, coyotes will only chase geese if they're hungry and aren't consistent predators to geese like dogs are.

The dog decoy should be periodically moved to different areas so geese don't get used to them.

A wooden base is available if you want to put the Dog Decoy in an area where you can't pound a stake into the ground. The base measures 13 in. long by 9 in. wide and 4 in. high.

If you have a pond, pool or water area, a minimum of 3 decoys will be needed to keep geese away. The company says a single decoy works best in a small area with no water.

A single Dog Decoy sells for \$59.95 plus S&H. A pack of 3 Dog Decoys sells for \$137.50 plus S&H. A pack of 5 Dog Decoys sells for \$250 plus S&H; the online special price is \$229.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Watch Dog Goose Patrol, P.O. Box 131863, Roseville, Minn. 55113 (ph 651 340-7512; contactus@watchdoggoosepatrol.com; www.watchdoggoosepatrol.com).



To make this birdhouse, the owner cut the bottom out of an oil jug and slipped the jug down over top of post. He used the 4 flaps cut into bottom of jug to nail it in place.

Oil Jug Birdhouse Mounts On Fencepost

By Janis Schole

While on a summer drive with my family near Cherrill, Alta., a section of fence caught my eye. It was adorned with a variety of "oil jug birdhouses". Each post had a different style and color of oil jug mounted on top. Whoever placed them there had cut a hole in each one (leaving a flap bent upward at the top) for the birds to get inside. I could see nesting material inside so I knew they were

being used.

The landowner cut the bottoms out of the jugs and slipped the jug down over the top of the post. He used the 4 flaps cut into the bottom of each jug to nail it in place.

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