



Barrel fence solves the problem of trash catching in wire and other types of fencing. The threaded-together barrels tend to roll right over it.



Barrels are strung together by lengths of pvc pipe and sealed with silicone to stay watertight.

## Blue Barrel Fence Rises And Falls

Anyone trying to contain livestock where gullies are dry in some seasons and filled with water in others will appreciate Gil Alexander's fencing idea. His blue barrel fence keeps cattle in all year long.

"The main thing is that when we get high water, if there's moving trash (limbs and debris), the barrels tend to roll right over it," explains the Colbert, Okla., rancher. The barrel fence solves the problem of trash catching in wire and other types of fencing.

With five gullies and low areas on his ranch where cattle have escaped, the barrels have

worked perfectly for 3 years, says Alexander. One fence includes more than 35 barrels to cross a pond that dries up.

Keeping the barrels watertight so they float is key. Alexander drills holes in the center of each end of the barrel so that a 3-ft., 4-in. long piece of 3/4-in. pvc pipe fits tightly when slipped inside. He seals the gap between the pipe and barrel hole with a silicone seal and cements a pvc coupler on the 2-in. end of the pipe sticking out.

"That prevents the pipe from dislodging and sliding into the barrel," he explains. "The

barrels are then threaded onto a steel cable like beads on a necklace, each independent of the other."

He ties the ends securely to trees or anchored fence posts that are above the highest waterline. The cable and barrels must be long enough to rest on the ground when there is no water.

"Cattle approach the barrels, but won't step over them," Alexander notes.

He recommends blue barrels instead of white barrels, because the white ones have less UV resistance and deteriorate faster.

Alexander also suggests using food grade barrels so there are no contamination issues.

He is fortunate to have access to lots of barrels because his daughter is in the liquor manufacturing business and ingredients are shipped in barrels. He's working on a movable train of barrels cut in half horizontally to hold feed cubes for his herd pulled by an ATV. He also sells the barrels for \$10 apiece.

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Repurposed Materials says customers have used their totes for everything from hunting blinds to aquaponics.



## Used Totes Take On New Lives

Food grade and non-food grade totes have many alternative uses, says Damon Carson, Repurposed Materials. Carson should know. He has been recycling the bulk containers to customers around the country.

"We've had them used for everything from deer blinds and firewood storage to septic systems and aquaponics," says Carson. "Take the bladder out and use just the cage, or leave it in and use them both. The cage is designed to be used with pallet forks, so it's easy to move."

The 275-gal. bladders sit inside galvanized steel cages. They are 40 in. wide by 48 in. long and 48 in. tall. The empty weight is 100 lbs. The bladder or tank has an 8-in. top hole and a 2-in. ball valve at the bottom.

"Uses are as simple or as complex as the customer desires," says Carson, who often gets pictures from customers showing how items have been repurposed.

Totes have been buried in series and used as a septic tank for a backwoods cabin. Others were used for a purification system for runoff

water. One was cut in half and the bottom half used to raise fish. The top half was used to raise plants using the fish waste and filtering the water for reuse. Another with the bladder removed made a hay feeder for sheep.

"A guy made a hunting blind out of two totes," says Carson.

The customer used one tote for the bottom of the blind, cutting one side away and remounting it with hinges. He used half of the second tote to build a top for the blind, leaving plenty of room between them to watch for deer. He mounted a swivel chair in the bottom tote giving him a 360° field of view.

Food grade totes sell for \$150 each. Non-food grade totes sell for \$75 each. Shipping is \$210 for one tote or \$250 for two. Availability varies.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Repurposed Materials, 10220 Brighton Rd., Unit 7, Henderson, Colo. 80640 (ph 303 321-1471; www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com).



Totes at left being used as a septic tank. Cage, right, employed as hay feeder.



## Free-Standing Pallet Fence

Karen Biondo of Vashon Island, Wash., used screwed-together pallets to build a solid fence for her pigs and goats. The pallets lay on their edges in a straight line, with pallets placed crossways between them to help stabilize the fence. All the pallets are screwed and bolted together.

"It eliminates the need to dig holes and install posts," she says. "I get the pallets free locally. Also, because of the cross pieces the animals don't have a straight line to scratch themselves on and wreck the fence."

Even though she lives in a high rainfall area, Biondo says the 5-year-old fence is still solid and shows little signs of rot.



Pallets are used together at right angles.



Hot Spotter is a big fan that removes cold air in areas most susceptible to frost.

## Hot Spotter Protects Crops In Chronic Frost Pockets

Experienced vineyard, orchard and nut grove owners know the areas on their property that are most susceptible to frost. The gullies and dips, and the places next to a berm where cold air collects are the most at risk when temperatures drop. Instead of writing them off as losses, Shur Farms offers a reasonably priced solution – The Hot Spotter.

"It's not a heater," explains Steve Hammersmith, designer and owner of the company. "It's a big fan that removes the cold air in chronic frost pockets."

At \$1,400, the portable 80-lb. unit with a 3/4-hp motor will protect up to 1/4 acre.

It's a smaller version of Hammersmith's

Cold Air Drain systems that protect large acreages.

The Hot Spotter runs off 110-volt electricity or a generator (1,000-watt or higher).

Customers grow everything from nuts and avocados to vineyards, citrus and fruit trees, Hammersmith says. Many have just a couple of acres on a family farm. In addition to preventing frost damage, The Hot Spotter can prevent problems with winterkill.

Contact Shur Farms for more information and distributorships around the U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shur Farms, 1890 N. 8th St., Colton, Calif. 92324 (ph 877 842-9688; www.shurfarms.com).