

## “No-Step” Electric Fence Post

“My new portable fence post is made from a 1/2-in. fiberglass rod with a 5-in. long, 3/16-in. thick steel spike at the bottom that can be quickly pushed into the ground, saving time and labor. Even in hard or frozen ground, you can easily drive it in with a rubber mallet,” says Kelly Troester, Marsland, Neb. “The electric wire is held on with a steel clip that slides over the post.”

To illustrate how strong the posts are, a YouTube video shows Troester using a rubber mallet to drive one of his posts into a 2 by 4. “Posts with steps work fine in softer ground, but in harder ground they’re too flimsy and bend too easily,” he says.

The spike is 5 in. long, with 1 in. of it glued inside the post. Troester drills a hole into the end of the post, then roughs up one end of the spike and glues it in.

Because the posts are smooth with nothing on them to get tangled up, they’re a lot easier to handle, says Troester. “You can hold 15 to 20 of my no-step posts with one hand without them getting tangled up, whereas if you try to hold just 3 step-in posts you’ve got an armful. No steps also makes for compact transport and storage.”

He says his no-step post works especially well with rotational grazing, where you’re moving fences frequently. “By using a shoulder-held quiver, you can carry the posts while stringing out wire, allowing you to put in posts and lay out wire in the same trip.”

The no-step post sells for \$4.25 plus S&H; with orders of 50 or more they sell for \$4.15 apiece plus S&H.

You can see a video of the no-step fence post at Farmshow.com.

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Electric fence post has a 5-in. long steel spike at the bottom that can be easily pushed or pounded into the ground.



Electric wire is held on with a steel clip that slides over the post.



Greenberg mounted a length of steel pipe over the cutting edge of the blade on his skid loader. “The pipe lets the plow glide right over mud and rocks,” he says.

## Come-Along Fitted Snow Pipe

Arlo Greenberg of Elk River, Minn., didn’t like the snow blade on his skid loader dragging gravel off his driveway. To solve the problem he mounted a length of steel pipe over the blade’s cutting edge.

“The pipe lets the plow glide right over mud instead of picking it up,” says Greenberg.

He cut a 3/4-in. wide gap lengthwise through the pipe and then fitted it over the cutting edge. Turnbuckles that attach to each end of the pipe hold it in place.

“The turnbuckles I use are actually threaded cement anchors that hook into the back of the blade. I pull them up tight to hold the pipe securely in place,” says Greenberg.



Turnbuckles attach to each end of pipe to hold it in place.

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John Kocur used one of the wheels on a riding mower to friction-drive an old hand-cranked corn sheller. “It really works slick to crack walnuts,” he says.

## Friction-Driven Corn Sheller Used To Crack Walnuts

“We tried using an old hand-cranked corn sheller to hull walnuts, but quickly found out it was too hard to crank. So we used one of the wheels on a riding mower to friction-drive the sheller. It really works slick,” says John Kocur, Carlisle, Iowa.

He chocked up the mower’s front wheels and jacked up the back of the mower until both rear wheels were off the ground, then placed a concrete block under one wheel to keep it from moving. A ratchet strap between the sheller and mower frames keeps pressure

on the sheller wheel.

“A wheelbarrow catches the nuts and husks out of the sheller, and a second person can then quickly separate the nuts from the husks,” says Kocur. “The friction between the mower wheel and sheller wheel acts as a ‘safety slip’ in case a nut gets stuck in the sheller and keeps it from turning.”

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Rotating, cylinder-shaped cage separates hulls from nuts, eliminating the need to do the job by hand.

## “New And Improved” Walnut Huller, Cracker

“Since you published the story about my homemade walnut huller and cracker (Vol. 36, No. 6) I’ve made a rotating, cylinder-shaped cage that separates the hulls from the nuts after they go through the huller. It eliminates the need to separate the hulls by hand,” says Larry Palmby, Dover, Minn.

The cage is 15 in. dia. and rotates at 40 rpm’s. It slants downward, and has an implement tongue jack on one end so Palmby can adjust the angle of the downward slant.

As the nuts roll around inside the cage, the hulls fall through to the ground while the nuts drop out one end of the cage and into a basket. The cage removes about 90 percent of the hulls.

“I plan to add 2 water nozzles that will spray water through the cage. The water will remove any remaining hulls and also wash the nuts,” says Palmby.

Palmby also built a new and improved nut cracker that he says “works absolutely beautiful”.

The new nut cracker is built from a pair of 2-ft. high steel plates and sets on a stand about 2 1/2 ft. high. Inside there’s a stationary plate, and another plate that slants and is pushed back and forth by a belt-driven eccentric.

Nuts are put one at a time into a tube on top. The cracked nuts come out the bottom and slide over a 1/4-in. screen that takes out the fines and puts them into a pail. The meat and shells fall into another pail.

“It works similar to the way a rock crusher works,” says Palmby. “About 85 percent of the meat is out of the shells and is in nice, big pieces. It’ll crack 40 to 45 nuts per min.”

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