



Expanded metal screen sits above tractor's fenders and behind cab window, protecting both the window and tractor operator.

## Screen Protects Tractor Cab Rear Windows

After a length of wire cable caught on a rear tire and smashed in a rear tractor cab window, Terry Jacob started working on a protective screen. Made from expanded metal, it sits above the fenders and behind the cab window. He expects it will block anything big enough to break the glass while not interfering with the rear view.

"The cable caught on the tire and swung around with enough force to shatter the window," says Jacob. "We've had other cab windows broken by objects kicked up by the tires of equipment. This screen protects the window and the tractor operator."

The screen is mounted on a framework of 1-in. steel tubing. Brackets mounted to each fender allow the screen to pivot into place or down for cleaning or opening the window. A rubber latch mounted to the bracket on the left fender locks down on a hook on the bracket to lock the screen in the upright position.

Jacob built his first screens for his John Deere tractors with their flat rear windows and large corner posts. He is now building one for a Massey Ferguson tractor with its



Fender-mounted brackets allow screen to pivot down for cleaning or opening the window.

curved (and much more expensive) rear/side windows.

The Deere screen is about 30 by 70 in. and weighs about 30 lbs. Jacob has had requests for screens and expects to price them at about \$400.

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Lifeguard rollbar for ATV's mounts behind the operator's seat. It's designed to support an ATV in excess of 1,000 lbs., yet weighs less than 32 lbs.

## New-Style Rollbar For ATV's

The Lifeguard rollbar for ATV's doesn't just provide crash protection. It also makes it easier to roll an ATV back onto its wheels.

The Lifeguard is designed to support a quad in excess of 1,000 lbs., yet weighs less than 32 lbs.

It has an aluminum base with injection molded plastic segments forming the arc. Cables holding the segments together are made from 12-stranded braided rope with a breaking strain of 7,700 lbs. each. The cable is kept in tension with a stainless steel mechanism.

The base mounts behind the operator's seat. Mounting brackets are designed to fit most rear carriers. When a Lifeguard-equipped

ATV rolls over, the arc soaks up impact. As one reviewer noted, it flexes, even when contacting the human body. The design makes it possible to push a quad over when on top of the operator. The arc also allows the operator to wriggle out from underneath.

ATV Lifeguards sells for about \$1,000 (U.S.). Options include a flashing LED light sewn into a red neoprene sleeve that zips around the top of the Lifeguard. It is priced at about \$149.

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## Feed Bunk Made From Conveyor Belting

Albert Watts turns conveyor belts into feed bunks with a little help from utility poles and railroad ties. The low-cost feed bunks are ideal for Watts' beef herd, and the price is right.

"I get conveyor belts discarded from a local mine," says Watts. "The 36-in. wide pieces work just right."

Watts says he has made a number of bunks over the years, adapting them to various fence lines. Each is as long as the utility pole that is available at the time.

"If the pole is 50 ft., the bunk is as well," he says.

All his feed bunks are against a fence. "I tried one in the center of a feedlot once, but it didn't work as well," he says.

If setting the feed bunk along a wire fence, Watts will nail boards to the fence posts and attach one edge of the conveyor belt to it. In the case of one feed bunk that has been in place for 10 years, Watts placed it against a section of wooden plank corral. In that case, he reinforced the corral with treated posts and laid the utility pole in front of it. As in all the feed bunks he has made, he set a line of railroad ties in between the posts and the pole.

"I attach one side of the belting to the fence, cutting it out around the posts," says Watts. "I attach the other side to the utility pole. That alone is enough to keep the pole in place."

Watts says placing a railroad tie underneath the belt protects the belt from cattle stepping



Albert Watts uses conveyor belts, utility poles and railroad ties to make low-cost feed bunks.

on it. Like the other components, the ties were free.

"All the materials I used had been thrown away," he says. "They didn't cost me anything, but they will last forever."

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Dennis Trussell's 3-pt. mounted poly pipe layer digs the trench, lays the pipe, and partially covers it in one pass.

## Device Lets One Man Lay Poly Pipe

Dennis Trussell's T-4 Poly Pipe Installer lets one man do the job of two, faster and easier. The 3-pt. mounted unit loads and holds up to four, 200-lb. rolls. It digs the trench, seats the plastic pipe and partially covers it in one pass.

"You can get all kinds of poly pipe layers, but someone has to walk along behind and put dirt on to keep the plastic from blowing away," says Trussell. "It is hard to find people to do that kind of work. With the T-4, one person can lay poly pipe on 40 acres a day."

Trussell fabricated the T-4 with steel tubing. A turntable on top of the frame holds 4 rolls of pipe. A boom with a hydraulic cylinder on the front of the frame picks up rolls of pipe and swings them into place on the turntable.

"The turntable is mounted on a 2-in. shaft with a heavy-duty bushing at the bottom," says Trussell. "If you get to the end of a pass and have too short a roll for the next pass, just spin it out of the way. Start with a longer roll for the next pass and use the short roll later on a short pass."

A telescoping opener on the front of the frame is also on a hydraulic cylinder. It can be

adjusted for desired depth. As the T-4 travels through the field, the plastic pipe unrolls over a pvc pipe behind the opener. A wheel seats the pipe in the furrow, while a drag chain behind it pulls dirt in and over edges of the pipe to hold it in place.

"I built the first one for myself, and operators in the area bought all I had for sale last year," says Trussell. "This year I had enough inventory built up that I have been able to sell outside the local area."

Trussell says the T-4, which he is selling for \$4,500, can be modified. One customer has requested an installer that can lay 2 pipes in one pass. Another has requested a larger unit to lay 18-in. poly pipe. The standard unit is designed to lay 12 or 15-in. pipe.

"It can lay it in circles or follow curves in the field and runs at up to 5 mph," says Trussell.

Check out a video of the T-4 Poly Pipe Installer at FARMSHOW.com.

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