

3D Fence Deters Wildlife

Livestock producers who prefer that their crops go to feed livestock rather than wildlife may want to try a new 3D fence design from Canada.

The design is simple - add a second, one-strand fence outside an existing fence. The key is to have it at a different height than the main fence and about 3 ft. away. Because deer, elk and moose have eyes on the sides of their head, they have poor depth perception. The varying height, depth and width of the fence gives it a 3D effect that confuses them so they'll go around that field instead of through it.

Electrifying the outside fence makes it even more effective, according to project results from a study by the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association in Alberta, Canada. They

tried the 3D concept in a variety of settings and had the best results when electrified.

Though researchers say that electrifying the fence is important, Spirit River, Alberta, farmer Lawrence Andrichiw says he doesn't think it's necessary. Just touching the wire trips animals up, he says, and they choose new paths. He went a step farther and placed single wire fences 3 ft. away and 3 ft. off the ground on both sides of part of his existing fence where there was a game trail.

The only time he has had a problem is when a herd of elk hits the fence at once.

The 3D fence can be set up selectively, where there have been wildlife problems or game trails, for example.

For more information, check out the study at www.peaceforage.bc.ca.



One-strand fence is erected about 3 ft. outside an existing fence at a different height. The 3D effect confuses deer, causing them to go around field instead of through it.

Low-Cost Fuel Trailer Born In Farm Shop

With its IH logo and big red tank, Michael Reichmuth's fuel trailer looks like it belongs at a local IH dealer's shop. Instead the trailer, used for refueling equipment in the field, was born in Reichmuth's own farm shop.

"We have all Deere equipment, but the tank I bought was red so I painted the trailer black and we got an IH logo to go with it," says Reichmuth.

Reichmuth used 6 by 2-in. channel iron for the underframe. He mounted two 7,000-lb. axles under it and a sliding tongue for easy hook up.

"I mounted the 1,000-gal. fuel tank on the frame and also a 100-gal. tank for urea," says Reichmuth.

A diamond plate tank for 15W oil mounts ahead of the fuel tank. It carries enough oil and a hose so Reichmuth can change oil on an irrigation pump if needed.

He also added a motor with pumps to move oil and fuel and a 25-ft. fuel hose with an auto shut off on it for the fuel pump. The hose reel is spring-loaded to retract the hose when finished filling.

"The final touch was to add a hitch to the rear of the trailer for towing a corn head or bean head trailer," says Reichmuth. "It has a 7-way plug so I can have lights on whatever I'm pulling."

The total cost for the steel, axle and purchased tanks and pumps ran Reichmuth



Home-built fuel trailer is equipped with a 1,000-gal. fuel tank, a 100-gal. tank for urea, and a tank for changing oil on an irrigation pump.

about \$6,900.

"I think a similar style commercial fuel trailer would run between \$10,000 and \$15,000," says Reichmuth.

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"Roof Saver" Protects Houses From Fires

Tim Gunn can't stop wildfires, but he can stop most houses from burning because of forest fires. His Roof Saver Sprinkler prevents flying embers from igniting on roofs. Combined with a water source and a power source, it keeps roofs wet, and that can be vital.

"Fire research has shown that 90 percent of the homes that ignite in a wildfire are due to flying embers and burning particles up to a mile ahead of the main fire," says Gunn. "The researchers estimate that 80 percent of them could be saved with a sprinkler system."

The Roof Saver consists of a sprinkler designed to go on easy and to stay put. The bendable frame measures about 20 by 18 by 10 in. and can be adjusted to fit the pitch of any roof. The 5-lb. weight of the frame, brass fittings and brass impulse sprinkler, with the connecting hose lengths, keep it in place.

"Ours is a family business with my wife, son and I manufacturing and assembling each kit," he says. "We use high quality U.S.-made components."

Each sprinkler covers an 80-ft. diameter circle of roofs, gutters, decks and surrounding trees and shrubs. Multiple sprinklers can be tied together to create the needed wet zone for larger homes.

"A 2,000-sq. ft. rectangle uses 2 sprinklers, while an L-shaped 2,500-sq. ft. home may need 3," says Gunn.

A basic kit of a single sprinkler is priced at \$139. Gunn sells a Roof Saver Sprinkler Complete System with a sprinkler, a 50-ft.

hose and a ridgeline hose holder for \$209. Discounts are available when ordering more than 5 systems.

Gunn reports that his family has been extremely busy with recent Western wildfires. He advises people not willing to purchase a system that even building their own is better than nothing.

"Our website is designed to educate people about what they need to do to protect their homes," says Gunn. "If you do install a sprinkler system, it is important to have a backup generator, especially if on a well. You have to have power and water to pump for the system to work."

Gunn says the system has proven itself. "I had one lady from Texas tell me that her home with sprinklers on it was 1 of only 2 on her cul-de-sac to survive a wildfire," he says. "A local customer had to evacuate his family and the huskies they breed. They came back 3 days later, and the house and kennel were still there and the sprinklers were still running."

Gunn says sprinklers should be running for several hours before a fire arrives. This lowers ambient temperatures and creates a humidity zone around the house.

"Turn on your sprinklers and prepare to evacuate," he says.

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Roof Safer Sprinkler keeps roofs wet to prevent flying embers from igniting. Sprinkler covers an 80-ft. dia. circle.



Kit comes with sprinkler, a 50-ft. hose, and a bendable frame that can be adjusted to fit the pitch of any roof.