

## Cattle Feeder Built From Telephone Poles, Belting

Art Utley of Tulsa, Okla., built this low-cost cattle feeder out of telephone poles covered with used conveyor belting that he bought from Atlas Belting of West Bend, Wis. (see FARM SHOW'S Vol. 39, No. 1).

"I raise Corriente horned cattle for rodeos. They're used for professional team roping and bulldogging, and they can really tear feeders up," says Utley.

He makes the feeders from old telephone poles, used conveyor belting, and recycled 2 1/2-in. oilfield pipe. Two poles are used per feeder. Utley cuts the pipe into 24-in. long sections, then flattens both ends and bolts one to each end of the feeder and 3 underneath. The belting is then bolted on between the poles to hold feed.

"I cut the poles anywhere from 30 to 50 ft. long. I end up with a feeder that's virtually indestructible," says Utley.

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Low-cost cattle feeder was made from telephone poles covered with used conveyor belting.



Joe Staker combined a loader-mounted bale spear with a bale unroller unit.

## Bale Spear Fitted With Unroller Wheels

We've seen lots of loader-mounted bale spears and bale unrollers, but Illinois farmer Joe Staker combined them into one unit. He uses it on his Deere 2355 4-WD tractor.

It consists of a bale spear made from 3-in. sq. tubing that quick-taches to the loader. A pair of free-spinning spare car tires extend below the frame and are used to push the bale along the ground. The tires are attached to lengths of telescoping tubing welded on alongside the frame and can be quickly removed by pulling a pair of pins.

"It works great and cost very little to build," says Staker, who runs a cow-calf operation with his family. "I made the bale spear several years ago and recently added the unroller.

"To unroll the bale I tilt the spear all the way back, then let the loader down until the wheels are about 12 in. off the ground. The spear is over the bale as I unroll it.

"Often I'll just unroll half a bale, then drive over and drop the other half of the bale into a feeder wagon or bale ring. There's enough clearance that I can load and unload bales without having to remove the wheels. If I need to move bales out of the field during summer, I just pull a pair of pins to remove



A pair of free-spinning spare car tires push bale along the ground.

the wheels so they're not in the way."

He used a 1 3/4-in. dia. semi axle for the bale spear and welded it to the top center part of the frame. To attach the wheels he welded a 2 1/2-in. pickup receiver hitch to each side of the frame. A 1 1/2-in. dia. sq. tube fits into each hitch and is held on by a large pin. Each wheel has a 1 1/2-in. dia. solid bar attached to it that spins inside a pipe with steel plates welded onto the tires. "There are no bearings, just a wear point where the bar rides inside the pipe," says Staker.

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Tired of using the pumping lever on his Stihl manual backpack sprayer, Mike Buss decided to convert it to electric-powered. "The battery runs all day on a full charge," he says.

## Manual Backpack Sprayer Converted To Electric

After he got tired of using the pumping lever on his Stihl SG 20 manual backpack sprayer, Mike Buss decided to convert it to electric-powered.

"I use it on my parents' farm to spray fence rows and other areas. It works great, better than I had even hoped," says Buss. "I can spray all day long with one hand in my pocket until the tank goes empty. In the past it seemed like I was operating the pumping lever all the time. I almost wore my arm off."

Buss removed the sprayer's built-in brass hand pump, check valve and linkage. He bought a new 12-volt, 60 psi, electric pump and the 14.4-volt battery off a cordless drill driver, which he bought used at a local surplus store. The battery was worn out so he replaced it with a new one.

He cut off part of the drill's handle in order to provide a receptacle for the battery, then hose clamped the battery to one of the handles on the sprayer. He then drilled 2 holes through the sprayer's plastic frame and mounted the pump to it. "The plastic frame absorbs the vibration of the motor, instead of my back," says Buss.

He also added 4 in. of 3/8-in. dia. plastic high pressure fuel line hose to connect the pump and attached a 90-degree fitting to connect the pump to the sprayer's existing

lines.

"I can spray all day long with one hand in my pocket and use my other hand to operate the valve. The battery runs all day on a full charge. If the battery on my sprayer ever goes bad, I can quickly disconnect it from the drill driver handle and snap a new battery in.

"I took the sprayer apart carefully so that I could put it back together again in case it didn't work out. I also converted another backpack sprayer for someone who operates a lawn care service."

According to Buss, the nice thing about the Stihl backpack sprayer is there's a reservoir on one side of the tank that fills first. "The pump I used has a built-in pressure sensor that tells it when to kick on so the pump runs only when it needs to, which saves on battery life," he says.

"I paid \$30 for the pump and \$12 for the drill driver and spent another \$20 for the replacement battery, which I bought on eBay."

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## Air-Powered Shotgun Now On The Market

The new Air Venturi Wing Shot is the only mass produced air shotgun on the market. It can also be used as a rifle with .50-caliber lead bullets.

Since being introduced and distributed by Air Venturi last fall, the \$850 Wing Shot has been selling well in the U.S. and internationally, says Paul Milkovich, director of business development.

"Its effective range is about 25 yards which makes it safer to use for pest control around people and homes. The air chamber for the precharged pneumatic gun holds enough air for 5 shots when filled by a hand pump, scuba or carbon fiber tank.

The Wing Shot has a removable choke and smooth bore barrel. Kick is minimal, similar to a .22. Discharge sound is less than a typical shotgun but still plenty loud.

"We experimented with the number of BBs and shot and found the best performance with 6 and 8 shot," he says, noting the shot works well for small game, pest management and trap shooting. Air Venturi offers the shot



Air-powered shotgun has a range of about 25 yards.

shells in a quantity of 50.

With a .50 caliber bullet, the Wing Shot shoots at 760 fps with enough power to kill game such as coyotes.

"The response has been phenomenal. Air guns are becoming very popular," Milkovich says.

The Wing Shot can be purchased through Air Venturi and their dealers worldwide.

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