

Old Toilets, Sinks Make Low-Cost Feeders, Waterers

Virginia farmer Bob Grace, of Broadway, says old toilets and sinks make great, low-cost mineral feeders and waterers.

"I get commodes free from plumbers and pick up sinks for about \$5.00," says Grace, who feeds out 3,000 to 4,000 lambs a year.

"To make a mineral feeder out of a commode, I remove the tank and seat and use just the bowl. Toilets work great for lambs and would probably work equally well for other livestock. The smooth, porcelain surface keeps mineral from sticking to the sides and the bowls don't rust. Each one holds 25 to 30 lbs. of mineral. I have about 20 toilet bowl mineral feeders in use right now. I wire the bowls to posts to keep lambs from tipping them over.

"I also have about 16 sink waterers in use. Cast iron sinks with square bottoms work best because they're sturdy and tough to tip over. I set each sink on 4 cement blocks for extra stability."

Grace runs a ¾-in. pipe to each waterer and uses a Farnam valve to



A valve off the water pipe keeps water levels at about 3-in.

keep water levels at about 3-in. in the bottom, which ensures that the water supply stays fresh. Each sink can handle 75-100 lambs.

Another benefit of sink waterers is that they're quick and easy to clean out with a brush.

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With modification, Wessels can get a 12-row planter through narrow bridges.

Folded End Rows Narrow Wide Planter

"We folded up the end rows to get our 12-row planter past bridges on the road," says Roger Wessels, Fairbury, Ill.

To make the fold straight, Wessels first cut holes in two sheets of plate steel and slid them over the toolbar, putting a large washer between them

to maintain separation. He then installed a hinge at the top of the plates, welded both plates to the toolbar and then cut the toolbar between the plates. The result is an easy-to-fold end row that transports down narrow back roads.

Double-Rigged Sprayer

A Missouri farmer double-rigged his spray boom to apply both broadleaf and grass-killing chemicals through two sets of nozzles on the same trip through the field, according to a recent report in the Missouri Ruralist magazine.

Dwain Dunkmann, who rents land on an island in the middle of the Missouri River, needed to find a way to speed up spray work on the remote fields. He mounts two 200-gal. saddle tanks on his tractor to hold a Blazer-Basagran mix and a 300-gal. tank at the rear for Poast grass herbicide. The chemicals are applied through a

double set of flat-fan nozzles strung on two lines across a 30-ft. spray boom.

Dunkmann told the Ruralist that timing is critical when applying both grass and broadleaf herbicides in a single pass. He broadcasts the broadleaf chemical and spot sprays for grasses and saves about \$2.50 per acre in time, fuel and machinery costs by making just one spray pass over fields, in addition to time saved on the 600 acres. The extra pump, valves, switches, hoses and nozzles to rig up the double sprayer cost about \$500.

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Editor's Note: Have you got a "best idea" you'd like to share with FARM SHOW readers? It might be a new wrinkle in cropping, livestock, machinery or whatever. Maybe it's still experimental but looks promising. Or, maybe you've already proven it works. We'd like to hear about it. Write to: Best Ideas, c/o FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.

Rotten Eggs Keep Deer Out Of Beans

In his annual war with hungry deer, soybean farmer Jackie Helton has found an unlikely weapon: the chicken egg.

With enough eggs, the Florida farmer cooks up a smell which stops the hooved pests in their tracks. Every year, he cracks thousands of eggs into a thick batter which he loads into the hopper of an ag plane. After pumping in water for a carrier, the pilot sprays the mixture over the edges of Helton's fields.

As the liquid dries and deteriorates in the hot, Gulf Coast sun, it emits that sulfuric smell easily identified as rotten egg. To human noses, it may not be very strong, considering how much it's diluted over the field. But just the hint of the aging egg repels any deer that roam near the fields.

"Before I learned about eggs we tried everything to drive off deer," says Helton of McDavid, Fla. "We hung stockings full of human hair along the field edges. We spread so many cases of mothballs that it looked like a hailstorm had hit.

"With special pest permits, we even spent time shooting at night. I've killed up to 15 deer in a stretch and probably shot 200 altogether over a period of years. It keeps deer out, but all the waste makes you sick. We couldn't use the meat ourselves and no charitable or governmental institutions, like jails, wanted the free deer, even though they qualified for them."

The deer were more than a nuisance. Helton, who farms with his father Roscoe and brothers Mike and Rodney, lost up to 40 acres of beans in a season to the animals. One 600-acre farm they rent in neighboring south Alabama is surrounded by a wildlife management area. In one 30-acre

field, Helton once counted 100 deer gorging on tender, young bean plants.

Helton hatched his egg-spraying strategy after seeing a television report about a woman who used eggs to keep deer from grazing in her garden.

If the technique worked on a garden, Helton reasoned, why not take a crack at it on the farm?

His daughter, Jacklyn, and niece, Christina Lugg, broke 100 dozen eggs which Helton then scrambled with a power drill and paint-mixing blade. After straining out stray shell fragments, he carried the egg barrel to his aerial applicator and asked him to spray the batter over field edges.

Depending on the season, Helton sprays one to three times to protect the crop until plants reach knee-high. After plants are that tall, Helton finds the stand compensates for periodic deer feeding.

On average, he uses 500 to 600 dozen eggs a year. Fortunately, Helton sells grain to an egg producer who, in turn, gives Helton all the rejects.

"Sulfur might work just as well as eggs, but we haven't tried it and aren't sure how to apply it to get enough smell in the field," Helton notes. "Even if we had to buy the eggs, though, it still wouldn't be a bad deal. Price varies, but you probably could buy eggs wholesale and only spend \$2 to \$3 per acre for the treatment, not counting application costs. And that spraying does more than protect one acre. It keeps deer from straying deep into the field and grazing at our expense."

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