

“Strobe Light” Keeps Watch Over Electric Fence

“You just look out the window and as long as you see the flashing strobe light you know your fence is fine. You never have to go outside,” says John Bishop, Electric Fence Light Co., Cookeville, Tenn.

The company offers 3 strobe light models. One has an LED bulb that flashes on and off with every pulse of the fence charger, with very little drawdown of the voltage. It’s designed to be used with fence chargers that put out 3 joules or less power and comes with a plastic base that mounts on top of a wooden post or a T-post using the company’s new universal T-post mounting bracket.

“The flashing light is very bright, depending on your charger, and can be seen from up to a mile away,” says Bishop.

The company’s Z-Bulb model works the same, but is designed for larger fence

chargers that operate on more than 3 Joules. It can be seen from more than a mile away. “When used with a 6-joule fence charger, the Z-Bulb model looks like a welding arc. It’s so bright that from 10 ft. away you won’t be able to look at it,” says Bishop.

Both models sell for \$35.99 plus S&H.

A smaller version called the Mini electric fence light has no globe or base and is designed to just hang over the fence. It comes with a weatherproof Mylar tube lens with the bulb inside. “The Mini light uses the same bulb as the Z-Bulb model and is just as bright. It’s designed for 3-joule chargers or larger but will work on smaller chargers, although the light won’t be as bright. The bigger your charger, the brighter the light becomes,” says Bishop.

The Mini fence light sells for \$24.99 plus

S&H.

“The Z-bulbs on these lights are guaranteed for 3 years, but they should last a lifetime,” says Bishop.

The company also offers a new lightning diverter that’s designed to mount on any electric fence about 100 ft. away from the fence charger.

The lightning diverter sells for \$9.50 plus S&H. The strobe lights and lightning diverter are available at Menards and through the Jeffers catalog.

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LED bulb in strobe light flashes on and off with every pulse of fence charger. Plastic base mounts on top of fence post.

How To Make Heated Water Tanks More Efficient

By Michael J. Thomas

Heated livestock water tanks are expensive to operate and can fail in sub-zero temperatures. That’s especially true for tanks equipped with drain plug heaters and also tanks made of a single layer material, either galvanized metal or plastic, that have had heaters added onto them.

But by using recycled materials, it’s possible to increase a tank’s energy efficiency and also reduce freeze-up problems, says Michael Thomas, Salmon, Idaho.

“If you’re filling a tank and notice the snow has melted away from it, you’re wasting electricity and run the risk of sub-zero freeze-up because your heater can’t overcome the outside air temperature,” says Thomas. “The idea is to create dead-air space between the tank and the outside. A space of just an inch or two will dramatically reduce the energy that’s needed to keep the water from freezing.”

He says 16-gal. water tubs with smaller 200-watt heating elements are most susceptible to freezing at temperatures below zero. “Used livestock supplement tubs work great to provide an outer jacket for these small tubs, creating dead-air space around them,” says Thomas. “To use this idea you’ll need a couple cans of expandable insulating spray foam per tub, some waterproof filler material that can be anything from fiberglass insulation to Styrofoam packing peanuts, a drill with 5/16 and 1 1/4-in. drill bits, and a can of all-weather spray paint.”

First, clean the livestock supplement tub with soap and water and let it dry. Drill a 1 1/4-in. dia. hole on the side of the tub, near the bottom, for the heater’s power cord. Also drill a series of 5/16-in. dia. holes spaced about a foot apart in the side of the tub, near the bottom, to allow any moisture accumulating inside to escape. Then spray a layer of expandable foam onto the bottom of the tub. “You don’t have to completely cover the bottom of the tub. Just apply the foam in a spiral pattern from the outside toward the center,” says Thomas.

Allow the foam a few minutes to expand to its limit and then carefully insert the heated tub into the supplement tub, drawing the heater’s power cord through the hole in the supplement tub at the same time. Center the heated tub as it settles into the foam, leaving a small space between the bottom of the heated tub and the supplement tub.

Next, begin inserting filler material loosely into the space between the 2 tubs to within about 6 in. of the top of the supplement tub. Then apply spray foam one layer at a time. Wait a few hours for the foam to cure, then



Used livestock supplement tubs work great to provide an outer jacket for small water tubs. The idea is to create dead-air space between the tank and the outside.



Filler material is inserted loosely into space between tubs to within 6 in. of the top. Then spray foam is applied one layer at a time, allowed to cure, and spray painted.

use a sharp knife or thin-bladed saw to trim away any excess foam. Apply 2 or 3 coats of all-weather spray paint to protect the foam and then let it cure.

“Your newly insulated water tub is now ready to begin providing electrical savings and fewer headaches on cold winter days,” says Thomas. “The same idea can be used on much larger tanks, where anything from used conveyor belt material to vinyl siding can be used to create the outer jacket. Any insulated space that you can create between the tank and the outside air temperature will reduce the amount of energy used and also reduce the likelihood of sub-zero tank freeze,” he notes.

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He Mills Corn With Garbage Disposal

Jed Van Der Zwaag needed a way to make a small amount of chicken feed from shelled corn, and a garbage disposal was his solution.

“It cracks kernels down to about 1/8-in. in size,” says Van Der Zwaag. “I had been looking for a small corn grinder and this will do about half a 5-gal. bucket of corn at a time. If I do more than that, it overheats and kicks out.”

Half a bucket of corn is just right for his small flock of 10 layers and 11 broilers. This way, the feed is always fresh.

Van Der Zwaag salvaged other components for the mini-mill. Steel rods from two lawn mower grass catching bags were welded together for a stand. The hopper for the shelled corn was made from a piece of used chimney roof flashing tin.

“It was easy to do with stuff I had laying around, and it works great,” says Van Der Zwaag.

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Garbage disposal is secured to metal stand and fitted with a hopper on top. Works great to mill shelled corn for chicken feed.

Adapters Let Shotguns Shoot Many Calibers

With Short Lane chamber adapters any break-action shotgun can be modified to shoot any ammunition from .22 long rifle to .38 special to various size shotgun rounds.

The concept has been around awhile and is popular in Europe, says Ray Banister, owner of Short Lane LLC in Miles City, Mont. “We’ve made a name for ourselves because of our product’s versatility and how hard we work to meet the needs of our customers,” Banister says.

A youngster can learn to shoot with grandpa’s old 12-gauge shotgun, by using a 410 adapter that has less kick and uses less expensive ammo or shoot .22 caliber shells with almost no kick.

Target shooters appreciate the option of shooting a variety of calibers without having to buy an expensive rifle for each one.

Hunters like the versatility of being able to use both shotgun and rifle ammunition depending on the game they find.

Short Lane offers different series to accommodate customers’ needs for price and accuracy. The Scavenger series adapters are smoothbore and cost \$30.

The three series of rifled bores come in 3-in. (Zombie), 5-in. (Bug Out) and 8-in. (Pathfinder), and range from \$40 to about \$100.

“The longer the adapter the more accurate,” Banister says. “Our rifled adapters shoot from 30 to more than 100 yards depending on the



Chamber adapters allow you to use both shotgun and rifle ammunition, depending on the game you find.

caliber and the series of the adapter. We have folks asking which shotgun to buy. There are companies that make shotguns with rails to put a scope on it for the best accuracy.”

Short Lane sales have been growing for the rifled adapters, as well as their smooth bore adapters for Judge® revolvers.

“We have another line we developed that has been out about a year,” Banister adds. “It’s a loading adapter to use a 12-gauge shotgun as a muzzleloader. It’s an advantage for folks who use black powder. They can custom load and mix the shot.”

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