



Pvc cap (at right) slips on over worn fence board and attaches with countersunk screws spaced 16 in. apart.

## Caps Keep Horses From Chewing Up Fence Boards

"Our new DRW Equine Fence guard lets you fix chewed-up wooden fence boards quickly and inexpensively," says David Whitfield, Morriston, Fla.

It consists of a 20-ft. long, 1 1/4-in. wide pvc cap that slips on over the board and attaches with 2-in. long countersunk screws spaced 16 in. apart. You cut a notch in the cap wherever it has to fit around a post, or you can just raise the board about an inch above the post before installation.

"It's an easy way to protect fence boards that are chewed up but still in good condition, and it's cheaper than buying new boards all the time," says Whitfield. "The pvc is 1/4 in. thick so horses can't bite through it. It's also environmentally friendly because you're not burning wood or putting it in a landfill.

"I came up with the idea because I got tired of replacing the boards on my own fence. I installed the caps on my fence's top boards 2 years ago and haven't had any problems since. The screws are countersunk so horses can't grab hold of the guard and chip their teeth. During installation, make sure the cap ends overlap any joints in the boards to increase their strength."

Whitfield also sells a 5 1/2-in. long, 1-in. wide pvc "butt joint protector" that locks fence boards together at the joint in order to keep horses from pulling them off. It installs with 2 screws. "As boards dry up they get stressed and become crooked. My protectors keep them fastened to the post," says Whitfield.

He also sells a repair kit for broken boards.



Pvc "butt joint protector" locks fence boards together at the joint to keep horses from pulling them off.

It consists of two 24-in. long pvc caps that screw onto the top and bottom side of the board. "It lets you quickly put the board back together without having to replace it," says Blake.

The DRW Equine Fence Guard comes in white. A 20-ft. length sells for \$21 plus S&H, with volume discounts available. Other colors can be ordered at an additional cost.

The board repair kit sells for \$8.50 plus S&H, and the butt joint protector for \$1 apiece plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Whitfield, 19931 S.E. 31<sup>st</sup> St., Morriston, Fla. 32668 (ph 352 342-5444; e.f.g.drw@gmail.com).

## They Propagate Healthier Plants With "Air Prune" Pots

Planting seeds in RootMaker containers produces healthier plants with more fibrous root systems. The specially-designed pots utilize air-root-pruning which means that when roots travel toward holes in the pots they die back as they come into contact with air. This causes them to branch, producing a more dense root system.

The block of fibrous roots is more ready to grow when released into a larger container or into the ground. The containers and the concept are based on a system developed by Dr. Carl Whitcomb, a professor at Oklahoma State for 13 years.

The system can be used with plants of all sizes from vegetable and flower seedlings to trees. The company gives an example of a 6-year old bur oak grown with the Whitcomb system. It spent 3 mos. in a RootMaker propagation container before being repotted to a knit fabric container for 2 1/2 years. With the fabric removed, the oak was transplanted and grew for 3 years before being dug for sale. The tree had grown to a 6-in. caliper size with a dense root mass when dug by a tree spade.



Root on right was air-root-pruned by RootMaker container.

RootMaker containers vary from injection-molded trays with 18 individual cells for starting seeds (priced at \$17.25) to pint, gallon and multi-gallon containers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RootMaker, P.O. Box 14553, Huntsville, Ala. 35815 (ph 256 882-3199; toll free 800 824-3941; www.rootmaker.com).

## British Farmer Inventions

We subscribe to hundreds of farm magazines, including many from other countries. One of the best magazines in the world is Farmer's Weekly from England (www.fwi.co.uk). They recently ran a farm invention contest. Here are a few of the many ideas that were submitted, courtesy machinery editor Oliver Mark.

### Simple Hydraulic Step

Martin Bell of County Durham added a hydraulic step to the side of his JCB tractor loader to help him climb in and out. He removed the original step, replacing it with a lift step made out of a couple pieces of square tubing and plate steel.

The step pivots on a bracket attached to the main frame. An electro-hydraulic cylinder raises the step so Bell just steps onto it, presses a button, and is lifted up to the cab. He added a new, narrower step next to it so others can still climb into the cab without using the lift step.



Replacement step lifts Bell up to his tractor cab hydraulically.

### Branch "Lopper"

East Lothian farmer Douglas Dale built a loader-mounted "lopper" to clear branches along fencelines and field boundaries.

The blade consists of a tough section of bucket blade that pivots closed like a jaw against one side of a heavy piece of steel tubing. It will cut through limbs up to 6 in. dia. and reach up to 17 ft. high. It mounts securely onto two front bale spears, so it's easy to attach and detach when needed.



Loader-mounted branch "lopper" reaches up to 17 ft. high.

### Grain Tank Auger

Grain bridging is a problem when harvesting damp grass seed. That's why Oliver Williams added a second auger to his combine hopper.

Because he harvests grass with a stripper header, there was an extra hydraulic coupling available which would normally have been used to move the reel. Williams plumbed in a small hydraulic motor that drives a 7:1 reduction gearbox. A laterally-mounted 7-in. dia. auger mounts alongside the main tank auger to keep material flowing downward.



Laterally-mounted auger mounts alongside main tank auger to keep material flowing.

The auger can be easily run in forward or reverse via the joystick controls in the cab to agitate seed as needed. In wheat, Williams simply disconnects the motor and grain flows freely past the add-on auger.

### Round Bale Accumulator

Herefordshire farmer Wayne Heath's round bale accumulator helps speed up the job of collecting hay and straw for his 350 ewes.

A hydraulically-operated gate holds one bale on the rear table until a second one is ready to be released from his Deere baler, leaving pairs of bales across the field. The ram to release the bales is operated on a separate outlet so Heath can drop the bales wherever he wants. The bale platform pivots on the axle so it moves freely if it should bump the ground.



Hydraulically-operated accumulator leaves pairs of bales across the field.

### Stone-Picking Barrel

Colin Ferguson's fields are littered with boulders that regularly need clearing. Scooping them up with a loader removed too much dirt so he built this rotating "stone barrel" that scoops up rocks and then rotates hydraulically to allow dirt to fall back into the field.

He started with an old 3-pt. mounted cement mixer, converting the mounts to fit a front loader. He replaced the barrel of the mixer with steel bars in a cylindrical shape. The only change he plans to make is to slow



Rotating "stone barrel" scoops up rocks and then rotates hydraulically, allowing dirt to fall back onto field.

rotation of the cylinder so rocks are not thrown around as hard when turning.

### Alligator Bale Grab

Kent livestock farmer Hugh Richards collects 1,500 small square bales a year from grain fields. He couldn't justify the cost of a big bale accumulator so he built this big bale grabber for his telehandler.

The Alligator Grab, as he calls it, has rows of 11-in. spikes on either side of long arms that extend out front of the loader. Curved ends allow the arms to float along the ground while a cylinder at the base of the arms moves them in and out to grab bales. He



Spikes extend out front of loader on arms that float along ground. A cylinder moves arms in and out to grab bales.

uses it to haul bales to the edge of the field to pick up later with a tractor.