



"It keeps trash from catching on wire fencing and culverts," says Joe Pacheco about his "pipe fence" kit. It consists of a reusable metal template that helps drive pipes that work with the flow of water.

Pipe Fence Great For Creek Beds, Culverts

Jose Pacheco used steel pipes to build a "low maintenance" fence across a creek that runs through his pasture. The idea worked so well for the Arizona rancher that he now sells a "pipe fence" kit.

"It solves the problem of trash catching on wire fencing," he says. "It's an easy, cheap way to keep livestock from escaping. There's no gap underneath the fence where livestock can get under, or where predators can get in."

His patented Kattle Keeper System works with the flow of water. A series of steel pipes (not supplied) fit through corresponding holes spaced several inches apart at the top and bottom of a reusable metal template. The template is designed to be embedded in the creek bed at a 45 degree angle away from the flow of water.

The operator holds the template down by driving a pair of hold-in-place pipes through corresponding rectangular slots on both sides of the template. Then he inserts the fence pipes through the top of the template and pounds them 3 ft. into the ground to start the fence. After driving all the pipes into the template, he removes the hold-in-place pipes and slides the template up and off the pipes. He then moves the template over and slides it down over the last 4 pipes, which leaves the template with 4 empty holes to insert more pipes. He repeats the process until the fence extends all the way across the creek.

"The design allows trash to rise and lower with the water level. The greater the flow and the force, the cleaner the fence stays," says Pacheco. "If the water gets high enough, it'll force the leading edge of the trash diagonally up and over the top of the pipes. If the water doesn't reach that high, some of the debris will just float on top and the water will escape between the pipes. Once the water recedes, the debris will fall to the ground where it can be removed."

Easy-To-Read Digital Compost Thermometer

Serious composters may want to check out these digital thermometers that quickly tell you how well your pile is "cooking". Accurate temperatures are displayed after 1 to 2 min. The thermometers come in 24 to 72-in. lengths and in 2 models. The heavy-duty probe is 5/16-in. dia. and starts at \$289 for the 24-in. version. The super-duty digital model is 3/8-in. in dia. and starts at \$319 for a 24-in. probe.

"Thermometer tips should reach to the center of a compost pile," says Peter McMahon, REOTEMP Instruments. "We recommend to not leave it in the pile overnight," he says, noting that though they are water resistant, they can corrode.

They have a 5-year battery life. Replacement



Pipes fit through holes spaced several inches apart at top and bottom of template.

His pipe fence can even be installed under an existing fence with a 1 to 2-ft. gap under it, in order to close the gap. It also works great to keep culverts from plugging up.

Another advantage is there are no above-ground cross members in the way to collect debris. "Without resistance from the fence or the debris, the water runs its course more freely, therefore creating less damage to the fence, the creek bottom and the creek bank," says Pacheco. "If erosion does become a problem, you can easily expand or adjust the fence to fit the water gap at any time."

Two different size templates are available - one with 8 holes that accepts pipe up to 1 3/8 in. in dia., and the other with 6 holes for pipe up to 2 5/8 in. in dia. "The pipe size you need will depend on the size of your livestock. For example, with cattle and horses the pipes don't have to be as close together as with sheep," notes Pacheco.

The 8-hole Kattle Keeper System sells for \$109.99; the 6-hole for \$119.99. Prices include S&H.

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Digital thermometer with probe reaches into center of compost pile to quickly display its temperature.

battery packs can be purchased for \$10. Mechanical thermometers are also available, starting at \$99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, REOTEMP, 10656 Roselle St., San Diego, Calif. 92121 (ph 858 225-1889; www.reotemp.com/compost).



"Tensioner tool" works like a cam to slightly pre-bend pipe before McNaughton welded on it. It consists of a 3-ft. length of welded-together double pipes with steel hooks welded on top and bottom, and a pipe handle with a steel yoke at the end. (Photo illustrates use on pipe that has already been welded.)

Pre-Weld "Tensioner Tool" Keeps Pipe From Warping

Matt McNaughton, Foothills, Alberta, recently built a pole shed using steel pipes instead of wooden poles as posts. He sent FARM SHOW photos of a tool he made to keep the pipes from warping as he welded steel brackets onto them.

"I set the pipes in the ground in a row about 4 ft. apart, then welded 1/4-in. thick brackets onto one side of the pipes every 2 ft. Then I bolted 2 by 4's to the brackets. The steel siding attaches to them," says McNaughton.

"Any time you weld on a pipe it will always bend toward the weld, so I needed something to keep that from happening in order to keep the building walls straight. So I made a pre-weld tensioner tool. It works like a cam to slightly pre-bend the pipe before I start welding."

The tool consists of a 3-ft. length of welded-together double pipes with steel "hooks" welded onto the top and bottom. The 2 pipes are welded together to make the tool rigid. A 1 1/2-ft. long pipe handle fits inside a short length of 1 1/2-in. square tubing with a steel yoke welded onto the end. A big bolt runs through the yoke about 4 in. from the end and serves as the pivot point for the tool. Another bolt runs through the end of the yoke and has three 7/8-in. nuts on it.

McNaughton holds the tool against the pipe and pulls down on the handle, which causes the bolt with the nuts on it to slide against



A big bolt runs through yoke and serves as a pivot point. Pulling down on handle causes another bolt with nuts on it to push against pipe to bend it inward.

the pipe with enough force to bend the pipe inward.

"It worked like a charm. When I was done making all the welds, the pipes ended up perfectly straight," says McNaughton. "I can vary the tension on the pipe by varying the nut size on the bolt. I also use the same tool any time I want to weld T-joints on other jobs."

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