



Pull-type planting platform lets Fred Forsburg and his helpers sit close to the ground while planting garlic cloves. Photo shows his first prototype.

Garlic Planting Platform A Real Back Saver

Planting 60,000 garlic cloves per acre, Fred Forsburg needed a better way to plant than walk, bend and drop. His shop-made planting platform lets him and his helpers sit close to the ground so cloves only fall a few inches.

"After planting the first 1,000 cloves by hand, I couldn't bend over anymore, so I would crawl," recalls Forsburg, Honeyhill Farm. "Once I had the planter, I could plant 2 acres in a day and go dancing that night."

Forsburg's specialty is hardneck garlic. The downside to planting it is that the garlic clove has to be placed with the rooting end down. That requires getting close to the open furrow before dropping it. Walking the bed meant carrying a bag of cloves as well.

His first attempt at a planter was a plywood sheet about 3 by 9-ft. over an angle iron and steel tubing frame. Wheels were mounted inside the frame, which had a long, fixed tongue. Rectangular holes cut in the plywood allowed Forsburg and another worker good access to the open furrow.

Not quite satisfied, he did a redesign. While he could have used a drafting program to design the planter, the former software engineer did it the old-fashioned way.

"I sat down on the concrete floor in my barn, extended my legs until I was



Redesigned planter has adjustable wheels mounted on a rear-mounted toolbar, which can also hold tools such as hilling discs.

comfortable, and drew a partial box around me," recalls Forsburg. "I found that 4 ft. was a comfortable width, so I made it 4 by 8. I again cut out rectangular holes to drop the cloves through. The holes are aligned with the furrows in my beds."

He added a toolbar to the rear of the platform and replaced the fixed wheels inside the platform with adjustable wheels mounted to the toolbar. The toolbar can also hold tools such as hilling discs, which like the wheels, can be moved side to side to match various bed widths. The fixed length tongue also was replaced with an adjustable length tongue.

"The planter increased planting speed

Never Dig Again To Replace Water Hydrants

Levi Fisher has the solution for water hydrant failures with his Never Dig Hydrant Sleeve. Add the sleeve when replacing a hydrant, or even better, install it when first installing a hydrant for easy replacement.

"I worked in my father's plumbing business for 15 years and dug up many failed hydrants," recalls Fisher. "I knew there must be a better way. We came up with the sleeve, and when I started Fisher Manufacturing, it was my first product."

Fisher credits his father for passing along ownership of the idea. Since starting in 2008, Fisher has sold thousands of the units. Included in each packet is a stainless steel elbow fitting, the pvc sleeve, and sleeve caps. The hydrant and the water line fitting are not included.

Once the hole has been dug and the old hydrant removed, a fitting to connect the elbow to the water line is installed. Fisher recommends inserting the hydrant pipe into the sleeve and screwing it into the elbow. Before inserting the sleeve into the ground and attaching the water line, insert the sleeve caps to prevent debris from entering the sleeve.

Once the water line has been reattached, the hole is refilled. Future hydrant replacements are a matter of unscrewing the hydrant pipe from the fitting at the end of the sleeve and replacing it. No more digging required.

"The top of the 40-in. pvc sleeve should be above ground level," says Fisher. "If necessary, add a pvc coupling and additional

by 6 or 7 times while maintaining accurate placement," says Forsburg. "Two people can sit or kneel by the holes with a supply of cloves beside them."

He notes that the adjustable wheels add to the unit's versatility. He can raise the platform up to 3 ft. high to roll over the tops of most vegetable crops. The hydraulic lifts on his Tuff-Bilt tractor's hitch raise the tongue to keep the platform level.

When the platform isn't being used to plant garlic, Forsburg lays a second plywood sheet over it and uses it to support spray tanks or



With the Never Dig Hydrant Sleeve, future hydrant replacements are a matter of unscrewing the hydrant pipe from a fitting that connects an elbow to the water line.

pipe to the sleeve."

Fisher sells the Never Dig Hydrant Sleeve direct by phone or through his dealer network. The sleeve, fitting and sleeve caps are priced at \$59.71. A stainless steel bracket for attaching the hydrant to a wall is \$19.14. He encourages FARM SHOW readers interested in becoming dealers to contact him.

"Our goal is to see them sold alongside hydrants," says Fisher.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fisher Manufacturing, 706 Red Hill Rd., Narvon, Penn. 17555 (ph 717 768-0155).

his flame weeder.

"It means I no longer have to carry 40-lb. cylinders on my back," says Forsburg. He estimates spending about \$700 on the planter in 2010 and saving at least that much in labor that year and in the years that followed.

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Grazing Expert Says "No Fences Needed"

Bob Kinford believes in rotational and intensive grazing but he doesn't need fences to do it. Kinford champions Instinctive Migratory Grazing (IMG), a practice he teaches to cowboys, not cows. Once IMG is implemented properly, the cattle graze and move together. Once that has been accomplished, the herd can be gently directed to the areas that need to be grazed to help regenerate the plants growing there.

"IMG reboots the natural herd instinct so the herd will strip graze by migrating around the pasture in as high a density as forage quality and density will allow," says Kinford. "Where it is lush, they graze shoulder to shoulder. Where it is sparse, they spread out, but still in a group. This provides holistic/regenerative grazing without extra fencing, multiple paddocks or daily pasture moves."

Kinford lets the cattle do the work. He breaks all the rules by not pushing the herd from behind. He also doesn't head it off at the front. Rather he starts from the front of a herd and walks his horse back alongside the animals. Once the entire group is moving, he uses a combination of moves by the horse and rider to redirect the cattle. Sometimes he moves at an angle, and occasionally he moves in the opposite direction he wants the cattle

to go. The key is to keep the cattle relaxed.

"If cows are relaxed, they stay in a group," he explains. "When they are under stress, they spread out."

Kinford teaches his approach through weeklong classes of up to 10 students per class. Unlike most such programs, his classes are on the range with all students on horseback. Each takes their turn working with the cattle while Kinford talks the other students through the process.

"I'm not training cattle," says Kinford. "I'm training people to treat cattle differently."

At the same time, he is teaching the students about the condition of the range they are on. They study the type and amount of grass and other plants.

"By implementing good grazing practices and allowing for adequate rest among other things, soil health can be restored, and biodiversity can once again thrive," says Kinford. "On our ranch, we've been able to triple our stocking rate in 10 years."

Kinford has found the best reception of his techniques among ranchers in Mexico and Australia. However, he has found plenty of advocates in the U.S. as well, and they aren't all large ranches.

"The techniques work as well with a herd



Bob Kinford teaches cowboys Instinctive Migratory Grazing, in which cattle graze and move together without the need for fences.

of 75 as they do with 3,500," says Kinford. "I have people with smaller operations use the techniques on foot, making the same approaches and getting the same results."

Kinford charges a flat \$2,500 fee for a group of up to 10 students, plus 85¢ a mile from his home to the site of the class. He prefers contact via phone, Facebook, his

website or email. He also maintains a blog and multiple instructor videos on IMG at YouTube.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Kinford, Van Horn, Texas (ph 432 284-1553; bob@2lazy4u.us; www.migratorygrazing.com).