

"No Freeze" Livestock Waterer

Faced with the rising costs of electricity, Saskatchewan livestock farmer David Flundra decided he needed to do something different with his cattle waterers. He sat down with his son Dustin and their engineer friend Lowy Gunnewiek to design an energy-free water bowl system that could handle the most extreme cold.

"We did some brainstorming about the features we liked or didn't like in other waterers and came up with our own," says Flundra.

They produced two sizes, the SB-2, a double column 120-gal. system built to handle about 100 cows, and the SB-3, a triple column 192-gal. unit sized for 200 plus cows. The waterers also work for pigs, bison, elk and goats.

The black poly columns measure 8 ft. in length and are buried in the ground to a depth of just under 7 ft. leaving approximately 20 in. sticking up out of the ground. Water enters through a brass fitting 6 1/2-ft. underground and rises through a tube in the central column to a valve and ball float assembly near the top. A separate tube runs between the columns to equalize the water level. The water supply valve can be opened or closed from the top with a simple T-shaped tool.

"The water entering at the bottom is always warmer from the ground heat," Flundra says. "As animals drink, it equalizes in all columns. It's constantly self-circulating as it changes position throughout."

The columns are fully insulated with pre-cut molded dense foam insulation. In the upper 2 to 3 ft., the insulation value is increased to R50 to protect it from the more extreme elements.

"You'll sometimes get a small amount of ice buildup in the drinking bowls as opposed to the center column with the valve and float assembly because it's encased with insulation and a lid to contain heat."

Flundra says the waterers can be installed anywhere a water line can be trenched. He recommends using 1 1/4-in. pipe but size



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calculations for long distances can be made depending on pump capacity. A 1 1/2-hp. variable speed pump in his own farm's water source easily handles numerous waterers while pumping through 5 miles of buried water pipe.

The units are built at Flundra's home ranch in Maple Creek and can be shipped anywhere throughout North America. A South Dakota distributor handles much of the U.S. market.

The SB-2 sells for \$2,100 and the SB-3 for \$2,500 (CAD), plus S&H.

"We have inventory, so we never have to tell anyone to wait," says Flundra. "Plus, I'm easy to reach on the phone so if you've got an issue, you'll be talking to the guy who built and designed them, not a recorded message. On top of that, if I can't take care of the problem over the phone, I'll come to you and fix the issue."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Flundra, Stock Boss, P.O. Box 477, Maple Creek, Sask., Canada S0N 1N0 (ph 833-662-2449; cattle.creek@xplornet.com; www.stockboss.ca).



"One of the unique features is our remote control hydraulic leg restraints. They safely catch and restrain the cow's legs without risk of injury to the trimmer or the animal," Ressler says.

Self-Propelled Portable Hoof Trimming Chute

Ressler says.

A self-propelled driving system is also popular to help maneuver the chute into tight quarters without the use of a skid-steer or truck. Hydraulic sorting gates, toolboxes, lighting packages, and hydraulic awning kits are some of the almost infinite numbers of add-ons.

"We also have a remote control for the various features which allows the user to stand back during operation of the different components," Ressler says. "It's user-friendly, keeping the handlers safe while adding efficiency. It also lets users choose their viewpoint angle on the work process and equipment."

The portable chutes are built in Lancaster County, Penn., and are sold direct to customers worldwide.

Costs of the units vary from a low of \$40,000 up to around \$90,000 for a unit with all the bells and whistles.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Josiah Ressler, Tuffy Tables, 891 Rettew Mill Rd., Ephrata, Penn. 17522 (ph 866-938-8339; sales@tuffyttables.com; www.tuffyttables.com).

Double-Sickle Mowers Cut Cleaner



I & J Mfg. offers several models of precision sickle mowers that clip hay and grass stems clean and close to the ground, don't plug, and allow faster crop regrowth.

is cut clean.

Contact the company or any of its dealers in the U.S. and Canada for pricing and availability.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, I & J Manufacturing, 10 So. New Holland Rd., Ste. 2, Gordonsville, Penn. 17529 (ph 717-442-9451; sales@IJmfg.com; www.ijmfg.com).

Hoop House Bi-Fold Door Stays Open



Tschetter made the two hinged panels of each bi-fold door with 1 by 4's, overlapping each other to secure 20-oz. canvas coverings.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quinton Tschetter, 2379 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 (ph 641-660-9765; qct1944@gmail.com).