

Trimmer Handle Improves Posture

The Darwin's Grip PRO series of trimmer accessories are designed to reduce pain and fatigue while trimming. "It's a handle extension that allows you to stand up straight and square off your shoulders for a more natural position," says founder Robbie Hamilton. "It adds more balance, reducing fatigue and increasing control and speed. It's not for everybody; there's that 1 percent that doesn't mind bending over while they work. But I know I would rather stand up straight."

Hamilton was inspired to create Darwin's Grip when he started a lawn care business in his 40s. "My business quickly grew to a two-man operation with 37 properties, but I couldn't pick up any more yards due to lower back discomfort. After a few hours of trimming, I was plum worn out."

He realized that the pain began as soon as he moved into the slightly bent position that factory handles on trimmers require. "Using an imaginary handle, I found a more comfortable position. As I stood there holding



Engineered for zero slippage and stands up to rugged commercial use. Operators can fully adjust along the X, Y and Z axis to put it in the optimal comfort position.

the imaginary handle with my back straight, shoulders square, and head straight forward, I noticed my mom's old four-wheeled walker leaning against the trash can. Once I had studied it for a moment, it came to me that if the middle part was cut out, it might very

well be the handle I was looking for."

Hamilton modified the walker and attached the new handle to his trimmer with duct tape. "It worked! So, I replaced the duct tape with welds, gave it a new paint job, and straightened the middle bend in the bar. But then I noticed it seemed unbalanced and clumsy, so I added the 150-degree bend back to the middle and restored the control of the original. The Darwin's Grip was born."

He's since redesigned the handle to create the PRO series, which combines the benefits of earlier versions into one unit. Today, it's engineered for zero slippage and stands up to rugged commercial use. Operators can fully adjust along the X, Y and Z axis to put it in the optimal comfort position. The lightweight aluminum handle is designed for a universal fit and should attach to 99 percent of commercial and most home-use trimmers in seconds. It only requires a 5mm Allen wrench for adjusting and is engineered for zero slippage once locked in place. New features include a redesigned no-slip heavy vise, an ambidextrous design, hammer fist

ergonomics, a quick-release lever, and more.

The Darwin's Grips PRO costs \$69.95 and includes a bar, vise, saddle brace, 5mm hex tool, one pre-cut .095 trimmer line, and a tube of thread locker. Each unit comes with a 2-year warranty, and the company will buy back any units that don't lead to 100 percent satisfaction.

Customers appreciate how easy it is to install and use and find that it allows them to trim longer. Many note how lightweight it feels, commenting that they don't notice a difference with their trimmers while using it. "I can honestly say that the best part of my day is sitting back, cracking open a beer, and reading all the texts about how this device has helped so many people and that they'll never use any stick equipment without it," says Hamilton. "It's amazing how good you can feel when you make people happy and help people ease painful situations."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darwin's Grip (ph 256-701-7605; admin@darwingsgrip.com; www.darwingsgrip.com).

Simple, Portable Solar Fencing

Jacob Yoder of Leroy, Mich., makes and sells the Porta-Zap solar fencing system—a fully portable livestock fence equipped with reliable mobile fence chargers.

Yoder is Amish, so he works off-grid. That adds challenges to maintaining electric fences. He used to carry batteries into the field. "That got old quickly," he says. "They were always running low." First, he invested in solar panels that he carried in a tub. Within a year, they went bad because of moisture in the tub. Other fencing products were too big and bulky, so he set out to create an alternative. A friend who worked with solar panels helped him with the details of his prototype, which came to be the Porta-Zap. Yoder used the system for a summer, then realized he had something other people would find helpful, so he started making kits to sell.

The Porta-Zap differs from the rest of the market because it's a universal system that isn't tied to any specific branding. It's also larger than most of its competition. "Most fence chargers will do just 2 to 3 joules, but this will do 10-plus, and even more if you're

in a sunny area," says Yoder. "I'm in cloudy Michigan, so I only list the capabilities for my area. I know I'm underselling them."

Each Porta-Zap has an external battery fuel gauge and an external on-off switch for full monitoring and control. Three wattages are available: 50, 80, and 100, and they can power up to 5 to 10 joule fences. The system takes just 10 min. to set up, and the waterproofing ensures year-round use. If problems do occur, the solar panel lifts for easy access to the interior components.

To use the system, set your own battery (preferably deep-cycle) in the battery compartment. Attach the black clamp to the NEG and the red clamp to the POS post. Ensure the Porta-Zap is switched to OFF, and attach the black wire lead to the ground attachment of your fencer. Next, slide your fencer into the Porta-Zap's fencer compartment. Attach the positive and negative clamps to their corresponding sections. Close the lid, lower the solar panel, and roll your porta-zap to the fence. Be sure the solar panel is facing south. Finally, attach a red fence clamp to the fence and the green



"Most fence chargers will do just 2 to 3 joules, but this will do 10-plus, and even more if you're in a sunny area," says Yoder.

clamp to the ground rod. Flip the porta-zap switch to the ON position.

The panel will work through the winter so long as you keep snow off the main panel. It also works to create multiple configurations, making it ideal for rotational fencing.

It's best to contact Yoder directly for

pricing and dealer information. Shipping is possible, and each setup comes with a three-year limited warranty. He's also a dealer for Timeless Fence System.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jacob Yoder, 14213 180th Ave., Leroy, Mich. 49655 (ph 231-388-7059).



"The trap is basically a rubber band," says Aaron Sumrall, Pig Brig's Director of Research Education and Outreach. "Whenever a pig runs at one side trying to escape, the force isn't hitting a single spot but is absorbed throughout the entire net as it flexes."

Mesh Traps Catch Wild Pigs

Based on a project with a sister company trapping wild pigs in Guam, the Pig Brig company developed a trap that works well for U.S. farmers facing similar destructive pest issues.

"It came about because necessity is the father of invention," says Aaron Sumrall, Pig Brig's Director of Research Education and Outreach. "Guam is a jungle environment, so it was impossible to bring in prefabricated panels, short of using a helicopter. Their traps

also had to be attached to existing vegetation rather than using posts due to buried armaments left over from WWII."

The resulting circular traps are 20 ft. in diameter and can be either attached to trees or used with 6 1/2-ft. T-posts driven into the ground. The netting hung on the inside of the posts or trees is heavy-duty and specially engineered with a drop strength of just under 8,000 lbs. to sustain the assault of even the largest pigs trying to escape.

A training period is usually required to introduce the pigs to the trap and make them feel comfortable. This is done by raising the bottom mesh skirt up and out of the way while placing bait like dry shell corn or peanut hay and castings around and underneath the trap for a few days.

"Pigs are smart animals, and if we try to force them to go somewhere they're wary of going, we'll actually push them away," Sumrall says. "Once the entire sounder is comfortable and eating the bait, we just lower the skirt to the ground and let the pigs take care of the rest."

He says that since they naturally love to root, they'll make their way under the skirt to enter the trap. When they try to leave, they're standing on the loose skirt, which reaches about 3 ft. inside, so their weight works against them.

"The trap is basically a rubber band," Sumrall says. "Whenever a pig runs at one side trying to escape, the force isn't hitting a single spot but is absorbed throughout the entire net as it flexes."

He explains that the larger the number of caught pigs, the easier it is on the trap as they can't generate enough speed due to other pigs blocking their way.

"It's a completely quiet trap, too, so nothing lets them know they've made a mistake until it's too late," Sumrall says. "The most we've caught in a single event is 78 and 307 over 15 days in one location."

The Pig Brig trap works year-round, but efficiencies decrease after spring green-up when more food sources become available.

"The best time to trap is once it gets colder and throughout the winter when there's less natural feed," he says. "We can push them away if we keep trapping after spring, so it's a good time to maintain equipment for functionality and check the records for the optimal trapping locations."

The U.S. Pig Brig traps are manufactured in Connecticut. An international manufacturer is used for their out-of-country markets due to high tariffs.

"We take a lot of pride that they're built in the U.S.," Sumrall says. "For our international market, we continue to have our thumb on quality control. We've only been in business for just over 40 months, and we already have traps in 34 countries."

The Pig Brig comes in Regular and XT models with everything supplied except posts. The only difference is that the XT has a 2-ft. wide cap that can be clipped or sewn to the top to minimize the chances of a pig escaping.

Prices for the Regular and XT traps are \$2,500 and \$3,000, respectively. Costs include support, warranty, and customer service. The website features instructional videos.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pig Brig, 100 E. Pine St., Orlando, Fla. 32801 (ph 833-744-2744; info@pigbrig.com; www.pigbrig.com).