Assembled Pumpkin Washer is about 6 ft. by 20 ft. The tank is about 4 ft. by 14 1/2 ft. It can handle pumpkins up to 15 in. in diameter. As pumpkins are brushed, they're hit with a high-pressure spray from water in the recirculating tank.

Washer Cleans Pumpkins Fast

A company in the U.K. can clean your pumpkins fast. The Reed Pumpkin Washer uses three rotating brushes to scrub away the dirt on 120 pumpkins per min. The brushes are just short of 15 ft. and are completely adjustable to match pumpkin size.

"We have farmers in the U.K. who grow as many as 7 million pumpkins a year, all for the Halloween carved pumpkin market," says John Steward, The Machine Install Company. "The Reed Pumpkin Washer is very popular with them. We think it could find a market in the U.S. and Canada as well."

Steward credits a late friend, Colin Reed, with the design. "Colin was a well-known designer of crop handling machines," says Steward. "He came to us with the plans about 5 years ago, and we decided to make them into a proper machine."

The assembled Pumpkin Washer is about 6 ft. by 20 ft. The tank is about 4 ft. by 14 1/2 ft. It can handle pumpkins up to 15 in. in diameter. As pumpkins are brushed, they're hit with a high-pressure spray from water in the recirculating tank.

The Pumpkin Washer comes with an electrical panel requiring 20 amp, 3-phase current. The base system is priced at about $92,000. It comes with a manual filter for the tank. The full-featured system includes a filter screen, auger, and drag removal for released dirt. It's priced at around $126,000.

"Our growers are pushing so many pumpkins through in the 8 weeks before Halloween that they go for the full system," he says. "It can run longer as it keeps the water useable for a longer time."

Steward notes that celebrating Halloween has increased quickly in the U.K. over the past 5 years and is spreading to Europe. As it does, he expects interest in the Pumpkin Washer to grow there as well. He's equally interested in working with a distributor in the U.S. or Canada.

"Set up is not too difficult, and we provide full installation instructions and manuals," says Steward. "I'd come over myself with any initial sales to help with setup. It would give me an opportunity to see and understand the North American market."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Machine Install Company Ltd., Unit 8 Anglia Way, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom PE13 2TY (ph 44 1945 587 439; www.tmicltd.co.uk).

Cordless Wrench-Powered Post-Puller

Chester Brown Industries (CBI), an Australian company, recently introduced a scissors-action post-puller (Vol. 48, No. 1). While it's designed for rapid pulling of line fences, the Multi-Pulla is ideal for those one-off posts. It's especially well-suited for pulling posts in spots hard to reach with conventional pullers.

"The Multi-Pulla is intended for those cases where you normally use a hand-powered puller," says Peter Chester, CBI. "We designed it with a front plate that can be adapted to different post types. There are jaws for pipes up to 75mm (3 in.), jaws wire cut to a T-post profile, and chain link grips for wood posts up to 300mm (nearly 12 in.) diameter."

The Multi-Pulla lifts up to 4 tons and not just fence posts. One customer ordered several to pull 400mm (nearly 16 in.), 3/4-in. pins that had been driven into asphalt pavement to hold grain bin frames.

"Some pins had been in for several years and fused with the soil," says Chester. "They wouldn't come out, even when pulled with front-end loaders, yet the Multi-Pulla pulled them right out."

Chester credits the pneumatic lift supplied by the recommended 3/4-in. impact wrench. "Grade 10 threads are used to cope with the torque applied by the impact wrench," says Chester. "Depending on the torque required, a 1/2-in. wrench or even a cordless drill may be sufficient."

The Multi-Pulla is designed with an impact wrench holder. It relieves the operator of torque load on their wrist.

"You can even have a sip of coffee while removing a post," says Chester.

The Multi-Pulla weighs 40 kg, just under 90 lbs., but wheels easily slip it into place against the post. Attach the appropriate jaws and activate the wrench. A 36mm (just under 1 1/2 in.) drive nut on the threaded rod draws the fence post gripping fixture up the center mast. The drive nut and the locking studs on the jaws are the same size, eliminating the need to change sockets.

"Multi-Pulla is operator safe as there is no stored energy to be accidentally released," says Chester.

"The Multi-Pulla is operator safe as there is no stored energy to be accidentally released," says Chester. "Unlike other hand-operated post removers, it won't slip on the post or break a handle. The jaws won't wear, and it isn't hard on the back."

The Multi-Pulla is available for sale in the U.S. and Canada. It's priced at $1,400.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chester Brown Industries, 4 Stockton Rd., Port Kennedy, Western Australia 6172 (ph 08 61563601 or 61 488685309; peterc@chesterbrownindustries.com.au; www.chesterbrownindustries.com.au).

Handy Polywire Dispenser Reel Cart

Homesteader Tom Wylie came up with a quick and easy way to lay out polywire fence lines using salvaged materials.

"I used steel tubing from display racks discarded at the local Tractor Supply and other salvaged materials," says Wylie. "I designed the dispenser to fit in the front side pockets of my 4-wheel Gorilla cart. I can pull it to the pasture with everything I need for a temporary fence."

Once the polywires have been anchored at one end, dispensing is as easy as pulling the cart to the end post. Along the way, he can drop off step-in posts and attach the polywires as he makes his return trip.

The dispenser consists of two 26-in. uprights made from 3/4-in. by 1 1/2-in. rectangular tubing. Wylie spot-welded a 5/16 steel rod to the top ends of the uprights. After hanging the reels in place to establish the desired spacing, he added a crossbar of 3/4-in. steel tubing. With the size reels he used, it ended up about 5 in. below the top of the uprights.

"I hang the reel hooks on the steel rod, and the reels ride against the crossbar," says Wylie. "It acts as a slight brake as I'm pulling out the cable."

To secure the reels in transit, Wylie lays a short length of angle iron over the reel hooks on the steel rod and secures them in place with spring clamps. When reels are not in use, the angle iron clamps to one of the uprights.

"The uprights tend to pull back when the cables are being dispensed," notes Wylie. "To counter that, I attach a ratchet strap from the front pockets of the cart to the center of the rack."

Once the polywires have been anchored at one end, dispensing is as easy as pulling the cart to the end post. Along the way, he can drop off step-in posts and attach the polywires as he makes his return trip.

Wylie notes that salvaging the Tractor Supply racks was key to the project. "I saw the racks lying behind the store and asked if I could have them," he recalls. "They were perfect for this job. I just cut off the two lengths I needed and set aside the rest for other projects."

Wylie developed a 3-page set of plans that can be downloaded free from his website. He also posted a how-to video to his YouTube channel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Wylie, The Handy Homesteader, (handyhomesteadertom@gmail.com; www.TheHandyHomesteader.com/polywire-rack).

To reinforce the frame, a pole was secured along the top of the "stanchion" area and another pole along the bottom, which were the pressure points where the bulls would be leaning into the feeder to reach the hay.

Feed Manger Built From Feeder Panel

By Heather Smith Thomas

When we decided to keep a couple of bulls in our main corral for winter, we wanted a place to feed them where they wouldn't waste a lot of hay. We had an old metal feeder panel that we could put across a corner and make a feed manger, but it didn't have anything on the bottom to keep hay from coming out beneath the slots for cattle to reach through it. It was also bent and had some weak spots starting to rust along the main frame. We were afraid the bulls could break it if they pushed on it too hard, so we needed a way to reinforce it.

We set up the old panel in the corner next to our loading dock, which had poles we could secure it to, and improvised to make it into a sturdy feed manger. We had some old boards taken off a corral fence in our "salvage pile" of materials for future fix-it projects. We used a thick board that was long enough to put across the bottom of the feeder panel to keep the hay inside the manger corner, after we secured the panel to the corral fence.

To reinforce the frame, we secured a pole along the top of the "stanchion" area and another pole along the bottom, which were the pressure points where the bulls would be leaning into the feeder to reach the hay. The poles were strong enough to take the weight and help protect the old metal panel.

We needed to move the bulls into that corral quickly. At first, we simply tied the poles in place with baling twine. Then we came back and used long screws through the poles to secure them firmly to the fence.

Putting flakes of hay through the corral fence was easy. We also kept a few bales stacked there, outside the fence covered with a small tarp. Since it was hard for the bulls to reach back into the farthest corner, we placed an old tire there.

The feed manger has worked nicely. It keeps the hay in a clean place, rather than just throwing it over the fence and having it walked on, pooped on, and bedded on, and the bulls don't pull out any hay and waste it. This is the second winter we've used it, and it seems durable enough to last a long time.

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