



Electric "Drive-Through" Feedlot Gate

Before he put in his home-built electric gate, Keith Kuhn had to get off and on his tractor eight or more times a day driving in and out of feedlot. Now, he drives right through without stopping.

And the cattle stay in.

His solution: A drive-through electric gate. Using 2 by 4 lumber, he built uprights and a crossbar over the entry way. He grooved out the crossbar to fit a 3/8-inch steel rod. He then looped soft 1/4-inch steel cables over the rod about 18 in. apart and let them hang almost to the ground.

Final step was to hook up a standard electric fence unit to the rod so the cables are "hot".

"I drive through without any problem because the rubber tired tractor is insulated, yet the hot wires discourage cattle from coming near the gate," says

Kuhn. "The gate has been operating for three years without any trouble. It's nothing fancy, but it works. Any farmer can put one together for about \$100, including the electric fencer. We like it better than commercial automatic gates with springs which can get caught and cause a lot of trouble," he told FARM SHOW.

Kuhn has found the gate especially helpful in winter because his driveway slopes up into the feedlot. Before, when he had to stop on snow or ice to open a gate, it was tough to get moving again.

Kuhn feeds out 2,000 cattle, and farrows and finishes 4,000 hogs a year.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Keith Kuhn, Route 2, Moville, Iowa 51039 (ph 712 373-5090).

"Made it Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors?

Harold M. Johnson, Editor



New-Style Electric Fencepost

An electric fence post he designed in his farm shop has proven so popular that Canadian farmer Les Adamkiewicz spends most of his off-season time from farming building them commercially. The posts are made from 48 in. lengths of 3/4 in. angle iron cut square on one end for driving, and angled at the bottom end for easy penetration in the ground. Each post has holes drilled 2 in. and 18 in. from the top, with 1 1/4 in. machine bolts inserted into the holes. Standard insulators thread onto the bolts and lock around the angle iron.

"They're so simple and economical it's funny someone hasn't thought of making them before," Adamkiewicz told FARM SHOW. He has fenced his own cattle and horses with the posts, and says they'll work for most any kind of livestock. For horses, he makes a 5 ft. post.

For sheep, he drills four holes and attaches 4 insulators.

The posts are strong and sturdy in any situation, even as corner posts. And, if you want more support in the corners, you can drive several together for reinforcement.

Adamkiewicz points out that he has no patent on the posts and has freely shared the idea with anyone who wants to make his own. He has, however, built up a lively business selling the finished posts at \$1.00 ea., F.O.B. Although designed for electric fencing, the posts are finding other uses. Small fruit growers, for example, have ordered them to use as supports for raspberries. They also have been used for grape arbors.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Les Adamkiewicz, Route 3, Brite, Ont., Canada N0J 1B0 (ph 519 632-7311).