

“Tear-Away” Disposable Bird Netting Protects High Value Crops

A new kind of low-cost disposable bird netting developed in Australia keeps birds away from fruit trees and other high-value crops and is simple to remove at harvest, says the manufacturer, Specialty Ag. Equipment, Inc., Reedley, Calif.

“Bird Ban” is a highly visible white nylon netting designed to be used only once. It’s removed by simply tearing it from the tree or vine at the end of the season. The netting is designed to tear apart easily without damaging the crop.

“Other types of bird netting are difficult to remove because they become entwined with the leaves and branches in the netting during the season,” says Brian Kirste. “Another advantage is that BirdBan is highly visible. Initially, the bright white color scares birds away. However, like all scaring devices the birds eventually get used to it and the barrier effect is needed to complete the protection process.”

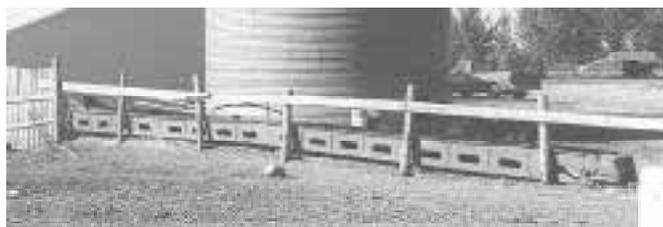
The product is sold in rolls that unfold into strips that are 838 ft. long and either 24 ft. or 16 ft. wide. Sells for \$555 per roll.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



“Bird Ban” netting tears off easily once it’s no longer needed.

Brian Kirste, Specialty Ag., 344 E. Dinuba Ave., Reedley, Calif. 93654 (ph 209 638-3631; fax 4710).



Oakland removed chain from a 20-in. wide bale elevator to use it as a feedbunk.

Old Elevator Makes Low-Cost Feed Bunk

“I made a low-cost feed bunk for my calves out of a 34-ft. long chain paddle elevator,” says Vandal Oakland, Centerville, S. Dak.

Oakland removed the chain, wheels, and legs from the 20-in. wide elevator and set it on top of concrete blocks next to a series of 6-ft. high wooden posts that form one side of his calf pen. He used lengths of light duty chain to secure the elevator to the bottom of each post.

“It isn’t fancy but it does the job and cost very little to build,” says Oakland. “I use it mainly in the winter after my calves are weaned. I use 5-gal. pails to fill the bunk with shelled corn which I scoop out of a nearby grain bin.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vandal Oakland, 28861 463rd Ave., Centerville, S. Dak. 57014 (ph 605 563-2355).



Unlike 3-pt. mounted tree shears, you can drive forward with this side-mounted tree shearer, cutting off trees up to 10 in. in dia.

Side-Mount Tree Shearer

“It eliminates the need to back up to every tree you want to cut, like you have to with most 3-pt. mounted tree shears,” says the manufacturer of the new “Side Kick tree cutter.

The Side Kick shears off trees up to 10 in. in dia. The side-mounted design positions the cutting blade 82 in. from the tractor’s centerline, offering excellent operator visibility and comfort. It cuts as low as 3/4 to 1 1/4 in. off the ground. The unit’s kick arm kicks cut trees away from the tractor.

Can be used to cut firewood or posts simply by releasing top link and laying the shear on its back.

Designed for use with 25 to 60 hp tractor. Available with a pto pump with 2,000 psi capacity for tractors that don’t have hydraulics.

Sells for \$2,850.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dymax Inc., 402 Miller Drive, P.O. Box 297, Wamego, Kan. 66547 (ph 913 456-2081, fax 8328).



Ellis installed an automatic transmission in his high-speed chore tractor to eliminate the need for a clutch. The result isn’t pretty but it gets the job done, he notes.

“High Speed” Tractor Brings Bales Home Fast

“No one would ever say it’s beautiful but it can go up to 40 mph on the highway and up to 20 mph in reverse. Works great for moving bales out of fields and hauling them down the road fast. I wouldn’t farm without it,” says Dave Ellis, Breton, Alberta, who replaced the 4-cyl. gas engine in his Massey Harris 55 loader tractor with a 318 cu. in. V-8 gas engine out of a Dodge van.

He coupled the van’s automatic transmission to the tractor’s original transmission, providing 12 forward speeds and four in reverse. He also installed the power steering system from a junked Ford van.

Ellis bought the tractor equipped with a New Idea front-end loader for the bargain price of \$80 and used it for about two years until the engine seized. He didn’t think he could find another Massey Harris engine so he decided to take the engine, transmission, radiator and driveshaft out of his 1980 Dodge van which had over 120,000 miles on it. He connected the output shaft on the automatic transmission to the input shaft on the tractor transmission, using the tractor’s original double chain and sprocket coupler. He simply welded a sprocket onto the Dodge driveshaft.

“The automatic transmission eliminates the need for a clutch so I can back up and go ahead without having to stop. It’s especially handy being able to travel as fast as 20 mph in reverse,” says Ellis. “After I load a bale onto a trailer I can drive fast to the next bale in either forward or reverse. It only takes a few minutes to load 20 bales and

then I can fly down the road as fast as a pickup. I haul some bales for neighbors and they’re amazed that I get to their places so fast.

“I also use it every day in the winter to dump feed into bunks for my cows and to pack silage in my bunker silo. No clutch is a real plus for loader work.

“The Dodge engine has more power than the original one and has awesome torque. I use the tractor’s original standard 4-speed transmission as a range transmission and the automatic transmission automatically shifts up or down according to the load. I usually put the tractor transmission in third gear in the field and in fourth gear on the road. However, I can drive very slow in low gear.

“It looks ugly but that’s because I just stuck things together to see if it would work. It worked so well that I use it all the time and never made a new hood for it. I don’t have time to tear it down and make it look more tidy.”

To mount the new engine Ellis drilled a hole in the cast tub, then welded a length of 2-in. wide channel iron to each side of the engine mounting bracket. He had to drill holes in the front of the engine block casting and use a hammer to knock a piece of casting out in order to make room for the crankshaft pulley. He used driveshaft tubing and exhaust pipe to make a pair of headers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Ellis, Box 103, Breton, Alberta, Canada T0C 0P0 (ph 403 696-3745).

Reflective Strips Improve Fruit Color, Growth

Placing strips of reflective plastic underneath fruit trees and vines can improve your fruit crop, says Specialty Ag., Reedley, Calif.

“Colorup” works by reflecting light waves onto leaves and fruit that would otherwise be shaded. This increases photosynthesis of the plant which improves coloring and speeds up plant growth. Colorup can be used with apples, peaches, cherries, grapes, etc. The company says it significantly increases the color on the underside or bottom of the fruit, even when the ground between trees is covered by a dense canopy. The product is sold in strips from 30 to 60 in. wide and comes on rolls 2,000 ft. long. It can be reused. Cost of the material depends on the row spacing but is \$200 to \$300 per acre.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



“Colorup” strips reflect light onto the underside of fruit trees, improving coloring and speeding up plant growth.

Brian Kirste, Specialty Ag., 344 E. Dinuba Ave., Reedley, Calif. 93654 (ph 209 638-3631; fax 4710).