

Insulation "Blankets" Stop Combine Fires

An Ontario company says its new removable insulation "blankets" can reduce the risk of fire on your combine.

The fire-proof blankets are used to cover engine exhaust manifolds, elbows, pipes, and mufflers. They're made from non-combustible fiberglass insulation material and have a mold resistant outer cover that can be hosed down. The blanket material is sold as a kit consisting of six to eight pieces that you lace together, using capstan rivets embedded in the edges of the blanket pieces. Flaps are used to completely cover the joints between blankets. Fiberglass tape and/or high temperature caulking is used to fill in any remaining gaps, if required.

"The blankets create a low-temperature surface on which dry leaves, seeds, stalks, and other plant matter won't catch fire," says Paul Herman, Firwin Co., North York, Ontario.

"We've supplied insulation blankets for years to manufacturers of forestry equipment, where bark, twigs, and dead leaves, etc. can lodge in the engine area and create a fire hazard. We're just starting to enter the farm market. So far we've targeted mainly sunflower growers, who have to deal with a lot of dry



Blankets on a container lift truck equipped with a Cummins diesel engine.

twigs and fluff coming off the plants. However, we've also sold a few kits to corn and soybean growers."

Herman says the blankets are custom made according to your combine brand and model. Each blanket kit sells for \$500 to \$700, depending on the combine model.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Firwin, 1685 Flint Rd., N. York, Ontario, Canada M3J 2W8 (ph 416 745-9389; fax 416 745-0782; email: pherman@firwin.com; website: www.firwin.com).



Remote control allows Shaffer to detonate gas from up to 25 ft. away.

"Remote Control" Underground Blaster

Underground blasters designed to blow up gophers and other burrowing animals have caught on fast in recent years. But if they're not used correctly they can be dangerous, says Joseph Shaffer, who has come up with a new "remote control" blaster that he says is safer to use than anything on the market.

The Varmit Getter comes with a wired remote control that allows the operator to set off the explosion while standing up to 25 ft. away from the blast. The operator doesn't hold onto the applicator wand while setting off the blast. Instead, the wand is simply propped up on a bracket welded onto a rodent shovel (included). Or, it will stand up on its own in the tunnel.

The wand, which is only 3 ft. long, mixes oxygen with propane. An electronic solid

state ignition system, powered by two 9-volt batteries, ignites a spark at the end of the wand to explode the gases in the tunnel system. The control box can be mounted on your ATV or pickup tailgate.

The Varmit Getter sells for \$1,295.

If you already have a Rodex underground blaster, the company offers a retrofit kit that includes the control box and 25 ft. of cord with connectors for conversion to remote control. The retrofit kit is factory installed and sells for \$698.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joseph Shaffer, Shaffer Enterprises, Inc., 130 N. Main., Payette, Idaho 83661 (ph 877 982-7648 or 208 642-9889; fax 208 642-9779; email: info@varmitgetter.com; website: www.varmitgetter.com).

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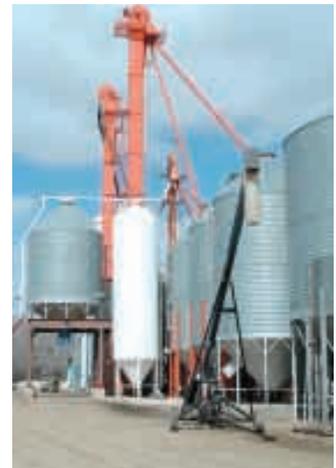
He Built His Own 96-Ft. Grain Leg

"We built our own 96-ft. tall grain leg last winter year. It's equipped with 14-in. buckets and handles about 110 bu. of wheat, oats, or barley a minute. We saved a lot of money by building it ourselves," says Wilfred Mollenbeck, St. Gregor, Sask.

Mollenbeck uses the grain leg both for custom drying and for custom seed cleaning. "We had been using two augers powered by a 60 hp gas engine to move grain. Using a grain leg is a lot cheaper because we can get by with just a 7 hp electric motor," says Mollenbeck, who farm with his brother Robert and sons Dennis and Kevin.

He used 5 by 10-ft. sheets of 11-ga. steel to build the leg. He also built the distributor on top, as well as a 10 by 10-ft. platform. To install the leg, he poured 24-in. thick concrete footings 20 ft. deep and then installed four anchor posts in them. A 30-ton crane was used to set the leg in place. Cables extend from the top of the leg down to the concrete.

"We use the leg to distribute grain to a half dozen different bins. Some of the bins are used just for drying grain and the others for seed cleaning. We originally built it to custom dry grain. However, it worked so good that it wasn't long before we decided to set up a seed cleaning plant beside it. I've also built two other grain legs for my neighbors. All together we spent \$4,000 (Canadian) on materials. A comparable commercial grain



Mollenbeck used 5 by 10-ft. sheets of 11-ga. steel to build his own grain leg. It handles about 110 bu. of wheat, oats, or barley per minute.

leg would have cost about \$150 a foot, or \$14,400."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wilfred Mollenbeck, Box 46, St. Gregor, Sask., Canada S0K 3X0 (ph 306 366-2113).

How To Bring Home A World Class Trophy

Dave Wheeler owns a company that has been making livestock minerals for 85 years. About 1996 he got the idea of boosting antler size on wild deer with a special mineral formulation that also acts as an attractant.

Soon after he started experimenting with it, the local deer population started sprouting record-sized antlers. In fact, one of the first customers to try his "Lucky Buck" minerals, Vic Bulliner, shot a world record 8-pt. buck in 2001.

"My friends and I have hunted the same property in Southern Michigan since about 1976. The biggest buck we killed on the property before 2001 was in the 110-in. class. The only change we made was to start feeding Lucky Buck minerals in the spring of 1999," says Bulliner, whose world record-tying buck received a Boone & Crockett score of 180 3/8.

Wheeler himself says that since he started feeding Lucky Buck minerals to the deer on his property, he's been finding much larger bucks and retrieving huge sets of shed antlers all over the area.

Wheeler has had a lot of interest from farmers who lease land to hunters. "It can be worth a lot to hunters if you can consistently deliver deer with larger racks," he notes.

Lucky Buck minerals come in 20# buckets. You simply dump the mineral on a fallen log or just on the ground. Deer love the apple flavored mineral which contains trace minerals like selenium, zinc, and copper, all of which can be hard to find naturally in many areas. You can start feeding it in the winter but it should be available in May and June when antlers are growing.

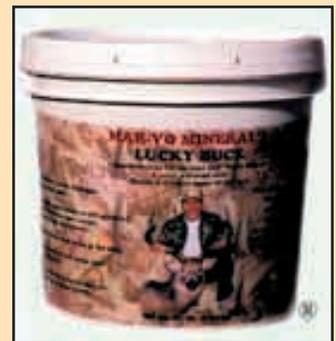
It costs less than \$100 a year to treat an average size hunting acreage, says Wheeler, who sells Lucky Buck for about \$20 a bucket, including S&H. Comes with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee.

"You're the judge. If you don't see bigger bucks after using the product, we'll send your money back," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Wheeler, Mar-Vo Mineral Co. Inc., P.O. Box



Vic Bulliner credits Lucky Buck minerals for the size of the horns on this world record 8-pt. buck taken on his property.



Lucky Buck minerals come in 20# pails. Wheeler says if you pour it on the ground deer will dig a hole with their hooves to make sure they get every last bit of it because they like the apple flavor.

86, Osseo, Mich. 49266 (ph 888 816-2786 or 517 523-2669; website: www.luckybuck.info; email: dwheeler@frontiernet.net).