

‘No Sweat’ Stake, Post Puller

“It takes all the work out of pulling up wood stakes, without breaking them,” says Nate Gould, Mt. Bethel, Penn., about the patented “Stake Out” puller he came up with to pull both wood and metal tomato stakes.

The innovative idea can also be used on T-fence posts.

Gould operates an orchard/vegetable farm that grows a lot of tomatoes. He got the idea after he had trouble getting wood stakes out of the ground. “Last year I asked my grandson and his friend to pull about 2,000 tomato stakes from our fields. They broke a lot of them because the ground was hard.”

The tool consists of a 22-in. length of 1 1/2-in. angle iron with a lever on it. To use, you simply clamp the angle iron onto the stake with one hand and use your other hand to lift up on the lever. As you do so, the lever pinches into the stake and pulls it out of the ground.

“The harder you pull up on the lever, the tighter it pinches against the stake. Once there’s pressure on the stake you can use just one hand,” says Gould. “Most stakes are either 3/4 or 1 in. square, so since the angle iron is 1 1/2 in. wide you can wrap it around the stake from any side. It won’t break the stake, either. Last year I pulled out about



As operator lifts up on lever, it pinches into stake and pulls it out of ground.

1,000 stakes and never broke one.”

Sells for \$29.95 plus S&H. Gould says he’s looking for dealers.

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ATV-pulled, trailer-mounted fence unroller is built on the axle off an old boat trailer.

ATV-Pulled Fence Unroller

Unwinding rolls of fencing by yourself is hard work. Kyle Carrigan of Corsicana, Texas, solved the problem by building an ATV-pulled, trailer-mounted fence unroller. He started with the axle off an old boat trailer. He shortened the axle to about 40 in. and mounted 14-in. wheels, then added a steel plate that’s a little bigger in diameter than a 330-ft. roll of wire. He also added a tongue. The plate supports a length of 2,250-in. pipe that’s the same height as the roll. The fence roll slides over the pipe.

“It works great. The trailer is the same

width as the 4-wheeler and has enough ground clearance that I can get into some difficult locations,” says Carrigan. “I can either pull the wire by hand or tie off to a pole and drive the fence unroller to the next pole. Once I get to the next pole, I cut the roll and then turn around and attach a winch to a strand of wire and stretch it, which cuts the time to build a fence in half. I spent only about \$30 to build it.”

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Some of the best new ideas we hear about are “made it myself” inventions born in farmers’ workshops. If you’ve got a new idea 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? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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“Made
It
Myself”



Hooking up 3-pt. hitch implements to tractor is easy for Sherwood Botsford, who built this hanging system that uses ropes to keep implement off ground.

Hanging System Makes Implement Hook-Up Easier

When you’re working alone, hooking up 3-pt. hitch implements to a tractor can sometimes be “like wrestling alligators”. Sherwood Botsford of Warburg, Alberta knew there had to be a quicker, easier way.

“Usually, you wish you had at least three arms, and even then, you might not quite have the tractor positioned in the right spot,” he explains. “Hooking stuff up can be time consuming, especially when you might only need a certain implement for 20 minutes before you want to change to something else.”

Botsford found that, by putting posts in the ground, nailing a 2 by 4 across the top, and hanging the implement a couple of inches off the ground with ropes, hooking up and unhooking goes a lot quicker.

For example, he has a post hole digger that’s normally quite awkward because of the need to get the top link arm into position.

“I think it took me two hours and a half dozen scraped knuckles the first time,” he says. “I probably used words inappropriate to a family publication, too.”

Botsford also made a hanging hookup sys-



He also built a hanging hookup system for his Deere cultivator.

tem for his Deere cultivator.

The next easy hook-up station he plans to build is one for his disc mower. By placing four posts in the ground and hanging the mower with hooks at four points, Botsford is confident he’ll simplify the hook-up process.

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Simple Way To Feed Distillers Grain

Wet distillers grain, a byproduct of the ethanol industry, is a cost effective cattle feed that’s a good source of protein, energy and minerals. But the soupy mixture is difficult to handle and spoils easily. A contest was held recently in Iowa to come up with ways to store, handle and feed distillers grain.

The first place idea came from Arnold Maynes, who purchased an old \$300 ground-driven John Deere manure spreader to dispense feed to his cows.

“I took the bottom set of flippers out so the feed drops off in chunks,” Maynes says, adding that his mix includes 20 percent ground corn stalks. He has a semi load of wet distillers grain delivered and mixes it with the corn stalks in his feed wagon. He dumps the mix in a pile and packs it to remove air to prevent spoilage. Distillers grain only keeps a couple of weeks, but with his process, Maynes says the feed keeps up to six months.

He worked with a nutritionist to figure how much distillers grain to feed. When feeding his 300-head herd 15-lbs./animal three times a week, a semiload of wet distillers grain lasts a week and a half. It’s important not to feed too much, Maynes said, but his younger cows have been thriving on it since he started feeding it a year ago.

Using inexpensive equipment and methods are important, Maynes says, since avail-



Maynes uses an old ground-driven manure spreader to feed distillers grain to his cows. able feeds continually change.

“It makes the trip to feed the cows in the pasture much quicker,” he says. He loads the manure spreader with a tractor bucket.

The cattle like it so well, that whenever he wants to move them to a different pasture, he leads them with pickup and manure spreader full of the distillers grain feed.

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