



"It lets me see what I'm doing without having to turn around," says Dan Scheele, who mounted a 6-row, 30-in. cultivator on his Deere tractor's front-end loader.



Forks on loader slip into a pair of box tubes welded onto the top of cultivator toolbar.

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

He Cultivates Corn With His Front-End Loader

Dan Scheele got tired of accidentally wiping out corn with his 3-pt. mounted row crop cultivator.

"I couldn't see what I was doing without turning around all the time, and that gave me a stiff neck," says the Ingersoll, Ontario farmer.

To improve the view, he mounted the 6-row, 30-in. cultivator on his Deere 60 hp tractor's front-end loader. A pair of forks quick-tach to the loader in place of the bucket. The forks simply slip into a pair of box tubes that Scheele welded onto the cultivator's toolbar. To compensate for the extra weight up front, he added weight to

the back of the tractor.

"It's a simple idea but it really works great. I like being able to see what I'm doing," says Scheele, who has used his loader-mounted cultivator for 4 years with no problems. "I got inspired for the idea one day after I accidentally wiped out 6 rows of corn. I'm an organic farmer and cultivate corn at least twice a year, so doing a good job of cultivating is very important.

"The loader blocks my view of the 2 center rows. When cultivating I watch just the outside row on the left side, which is just outside the tractor's left front wheel. As long as I'm centered on that row I know I'm okay

on all the other rows."

There are other advantages to a loader-mounted cultivator, says Scheele. "Because I can see what I'm doing, it's easier to adjust the tractor's speed so that I can throw dirt closer to the rows. The loader is heavy enough that I have no trouble cultivating at the depth I want, whereas with a 3-pt. mounted cultivator sometimes it's hard to get enough downpressure. Also, the front-mounted cultivator frees up my 3-pt. hitch for other implements."

To add forks to the loader he made a frame out of 2 by 4-in. tubing. A 1 1/4-in. dia. horizontal shaft supports the forks. A pair

of box tubes welded on front of the frame ensures adequate clearance between the cultivator and the tractor's front wheels.

He removed the cultivator's 3-pt. hitch, then welded a pair of 5-in. wide by 2-in. high box beams on top of the toolbar to match the forks. "I made sure I got a good bead when making the welds. They haven't cracked yet," says Scheele.

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Barriers Can Stop Beavers From Plugging Pipes

Beavers are notorious for plugging up overflow pipes. Years of work and experimentation at the Noble Research Foundation have produced a beaver barrier that works.

"We tried PVC pipe and electric fencing around outlet pipes, and it worked as long as the electricity stayed on," recalls Mike Porter, wildlife biologist. "However, every time it flooded, the debris had to be dealt with, and trees fell on the lines. We had more than 140 ponds on 12,000 acres, and it just wasn't practical to check ponds on a daily or even weekly basis."

Once the electricity was gone, it was only a matter of time before the beavers were back. Porter began looking for more passive ways to control beaver activity. He settled on parallel steel bar barriers that engaged the pipe. The 1/2-in. to 3/4-in. bars are welded in a horizontal pattern with 1-in. gaps and vertical framing at the corners. This allows water to

flow through and debris to float up and over the barrier as water levels rise.

"We found that you needed a minimum size or the beavers would just build a dam all around it," says Porter. "If the box was at least 4 ft. by 5 ft. and the bottom was buried at least 6 in. into the earth around the pipe, it would minimize beaver damage."

Boxes with bottoms could also be installed over the pipes, resting on the pipe itself or on posts driven into the soil around the pipe. Porter also found that if the riser or standpipe was at least three feet above surrounding soil levels, the beaver were less likely to try to build around it.

Since beavers are drawn to flowing water, running a perforated pipe from near the bottom of the pond to the overflow pipe can minimize activity. Porter found this was also a way to defeat a dam built around a barrier. In those cases, the parallel bar barrier was

modified to allow the pipe through to the overflow pipe.

What doesn't work, says Porter, is trapping or hunting. "You can run them out of the watershed, and if it is beaver habitat, they will be back within 6 months to a year," he says. "Now we just try to live with them and prevent damage. We have parallel bar barriers that have been in place for 25 years and should still be there in 75."

Porter has used two different types of barriers. One was built in a single unit, while the second was built in panels and assembled on site. Regardless of type, he emphasizes that they be larger than the overflow pipe and never less than 14 in. above the overflow pipe.

"We've tried sucker rod and seen some built out of rebar," says Porter. "I've seen wire netting panels, hardware cloth and even livestock panels, but they all tend to clog up. It is the vertical posts in the panels that cause



Beaver barriers made of steel bars, are used to enclose pvc overflow pipe.

the clogging. The fewer of them you have, the less likely it will clog."

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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

FARM SHOW

"Made It Myself"

Training Collar Keeps Dog In Its Place

By C. F. Marley, Contributing Editor

We wanted a free-roaming farm dog that didn't have to be penned up, yet we didn't want him bringing his "treasures" up onto our front porch.

But teaching that to a black lab puppy is easier said than done. He liked to bring us old bones, dead field mice, ground nesting birds, trash of all kinds, and even old animal carcasses.

We finally broke him of the bad habit by using an electronic dog training collar (ph 800 816-0810; www.dogtra.factoryoutletstore.com).

During the learning process, when our pup entered forbidden territory we would use a control box to signal the training collar to emit an electric shock. The shock causes the



Electronic dog training collar helped Marley train his dog to stop bringing "treasures" onto his front porch.

animal to get out of the territory he's in. It didn't take many of those shocks to educate him.

It's nice not to have all that mess at the front door any more.