

Fly Boards Reduce Problem Face Flies

Fred Forsburg's fly boards capture thousands of face flies a day, freeing his cattle up to graze more while reducing potential pink eye. Forsburg practices intensive grazing with a small herd of stockers. He outlined his fly control efforts in a recent issue of *On Pasture* (www.onpasture.com).

He got the idea after he placed a piece of sheet steel against a post next to a water tank while he opened a valve. As cattle bobbed their heads toward the water, face flies left to sit on the steel plate.

"I headed straight for the shop and attached a half dozen strips of fly ribbon to a wide board," says Forsburg. "I placed the board against the wire behind the tank. It captured hundreds of flies in no time as the herd drank."

Fly ribbon was hard to work with so Forsburg started searching for alternatives. He first tried out CatchMaster brand wide flypaper. It was not as messy as fly ribbon and captured 2,000 flies in a day.

But Forsburg was still not satisfied, so he tracked down a company that makes flypaper.

"I asked to speak to the vice president of

Research and Development," says Forsburg. "He took my call and later visited the farm. When he did, he supplied me with a variety of their products, and we strategized on how to use them."

Forsburg settled on what are known as glue boards. The 12 by 24-in. sheets have a heavier backing than the flypaper and are easy to staple in place. A protective film over the sticky surface is removed at the location where they will be used.

He staples one or two glue boards to each board depending on how many flies are around.

The glue boards last longer than the flypaper. He changes them multiple times a week during heavy fly season or when they are full. Each board can hold more than 2,000 flies."

While his system will never eliminate flies completely, it does reduce the numbers. Since only the female face fly attacks cattle, eliminating so many of them has a potent effect on the overall population.

Forsburg continues to work on his next generation of fly traps. He encourages others



Fly boards use stapled-on glue boards to catch flies. Each board can hold more than 2,000 flies.

to contact him with what they have found out about face flies and controlling them.

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Steel Hoop Firewood Storage

Bill Smith's Super Log Hoops keep his firewood high and dry. Each round, steel band holds about a cord and a half. He makes the 8-ft. dia., 5-ft. deep hoops out of three 9 by 5-ft. sheets of Alucobond, an aluminum composite material.

"I first made 4-ft. hoops using steel reinforcing rod for a hoop frame and covering it with sheets of the Alucobond," says Smith of Delanson, N.Y. "I had them in front of my shop, and people would stop and ask to buy them."

After building and then selling 8 of them, Smith was intrigued that there might be a market for his hoops. He decided to upgrade the design. He went with a frame-free look by having the Alucobond sheets rolled into a 4-ft. radius.

Smith overlapped the ends of the rolled sheets by 6 in. before drilling and bolting them together with twenty-two 3/8-in. bolts. The hoops sit in cradles fabricated from 3/16-

in. thick 2 by 2-in. square steel tubing.

"Getting the cradle frame welded, dipped and galvanized was the second most expensive part of making the hoops," says Smith. "The Alucobond material alone came to \$1,100.

"Alucobond is weather resistant and UV protected," says Smith. "It has a 1/4-in. thick poly core with a thin film of aluminum laminated to each side. It is very durable and should last more than 50 years. You could stand on it or walk on it, and it wouldn't bend much."

Smith estimates having used around 100 sheets of the composite material over the years. "I've covered the walls on my shop, as well as using them for the hoops," he says. "They are easy to clean. Just pressure wash them."

Initially, Smith planned to market the very attractive hoops for use at camps and businesses. However, he estimates he would



Bill Smith keeps his firewood high and dry with his Super Log Hoops. They measure 8 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. deep. Each holds about 1 1/2 cords of wood.

need to ask at least \$2,000 per hoop for materials, labor and tax.

"I felt that was too much to ask, so I kept

them for my own use," says Smith. "I like having them sit in front of my shop. They make interesting firewood storage."

Aluminum Chicken "Tractors" Easy To Move

Dave Lambricht's chicken "tractors" are easy to move. Flip a lever on either side to raise them up on wheels, and push them onto fresh ground. Flip the levers back, and the lightweight coop frames are back on the ground, keeping the chickens safe from predators.

"We've sent them all over the U.S.," says Lambricht, Dalam Welding. "People use them for laying hens, geese, goats, ponies, broilers and more."

The smaller size is 4 by 6 ft. and 4 ft. tall. It is designed for laying hens and comes with a 2-hole nesting box on the backside. The box offers access from the outside to gather eggs. The 18-oz. roof tarp has a zippered opening so the owner can reach inside to do feeding and other maintenance.

"It is so light that our 7-yr.-old pulls ours around the yard," says Lambricht.

The larger model is 10 by 12 ft. with a 6-ft. peak. It has a 44 by 24-in. door at the front end. Extra framing at the rear is designed to carry an optional 2-hole nesting box.

The larger coop uses 1 by 2 1/2-in. aluminum tube frames. The smaller model uses 1 by 1-in. tubing. Both are sided with zinc coated, 14-ga. netting. The larger model has stainless steel latches and aluminum

hinges. Cross braces in the center and rear as well as side braces add rigidity. The cross braces also serve as roosts for chickens.

Like the smaller model, the roof is an 18-oz. tarp that extends to near ground level at the rear and the rear halves of each side.

"The tarps on both models can be rolled up for more air movement," says Lambricht.

The 16-in. solid rubber wheels on both models can be adjusted from zero to 5-in. lift to match grass height and density.

"We made the first ones to raise 2 in., but that wasn't high enough for heavy grass," says Lambricht. "The second one raised the coop 5 in., but in light grass, the chickens could slip out. Now we use a stainless steel chain to adjust the height."

The larger coop is priced at \$1,265. The suggested capacity is around 40 full-size broilers. The smaller coop is designed for around 8 laying hens and is priced at \$875.

"Actual capacity varies greatly," says Lambricht. "It depends on bird size, as well as how often the unit is moved. One customer says the large model can handle up to 70 broilers, but he moves it several times a day."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dalam Welding, 7665 S. 200 W., Topeka, Ind. 46571 (ph 260 593-0168, ext. 1).



Dave Lambricht's chicken "tractors" ride on 16-in. solid rubber wheels, making them easy to move. You flip a lever on either side to raise them off the ground.

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