



Corrugated poly fence rails cost less and are easier to work with than steel guardrails. One person can lift the 16 1/2-ft. panels and attach them with lag bolts and washers.

Poly Panels Beat Steel Guardrails

Douglas Thornburg's new plastic fence rails won't injure livestock or the people putting them up. Unveiled at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., the corrugated, high density poly rails cost and weigh a fraction of recycled steel guardrails. The 16 1/2-ft. long by 14-in. wide rails are easier to put up and should last longer than their steel counterparts.

"Steel guardrails are harder and harder to find, and when you do, hanging them is difficult and dangerous," says Thornburg, North American Farm Supply. "You need a cutting torch or Sawzall as well as equipment to lift them into place. One man can lift our panels and attach them with lag bolts and washers."

Manufactured out of advanced polymers, the rails outperform steel in crush tests, bend without breaking and return to their original shape.

"They cut like wood with no pre-drilling required," says Thornburg. "Unlike steel guardrails, they have no sharp edges and are flexible enough for use in round corrals."

Thornburg got the idea for the rails when his brother-in-law was complaining about steel guardrail corrals. "He now has 3,000 ft. of our poly rail fencing," says Thornburg.

The plastic panels are not just for cattle. Thornburg says they work for any type of livestock from horses to buffalo.

The poly rails will interlock to create stalls, dividers or barn walls. Unlike galvanized metal or wood, livestock won't lick or chew on them. They are also more sanitary.

"You can apply antibacterial spray to them and wash them off," says Thornburg. "They aren't porous, so bacteria can't penetrate."

Currently, the panels are available only from North American Farm Supply. Thornburg is looking for distributors for the newly introduced product.

The panels are available in bundles of 136 pieces for \$5,400 and mini-bundles of 45 for \$1,800. Shipping is free for bundles of 2 or more.

For ordering purposes, divide the length of the planned fence or corral sides by 16 ft. The additional 6 in. in each panel is for overlapping ends.

"One bundle will provide enough panels for 700 linear ft. of 3-rail fence," explains Thornburg. "We provide all the hardware needed to install. Proper installation requires the use of lag bolts and washers to provide the pinch point needed to give the panels strength and a longer life."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, North American Farm Supply, 276 Industrial Park Rd., Mount Vernon, Ky. 40456 (ph 606 386-1903; info@nafarmsupply.com; www.nafarmsupply.com).

Expanded Metal Rock Guard

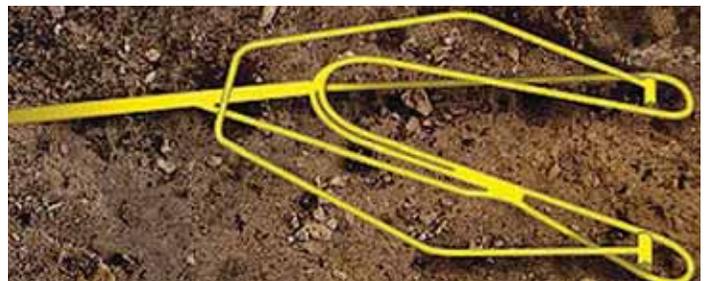
After two broken rear windows in the same mowing season, Lance VanGennip of Marble Hill, Missouri decided he'd had enough. The result is a permanently mounted rock guard that sits close to the cab so it's out of the way.

Lance, his wife, and two young boys run a 150-head cow/calf operation spread out over 800 acres in the hill country of southeast Missouri. It's an annual chore to mow the pastures to knock back any weeds and especially the red cedar sprouts. The soil in many parts is thin, with limestone rocks near the surface, so it's not uncommon to clip one which sends the chips flying. The screen stops the big chips that can break a window and still allows an unobstructed view of the mower. And since it sits close to the cab, it doesn't have to be removed when using the tractor with other implements.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lance VanGennip, Rt. 2, Box 896, Marble Hill, Mo. 63764 (ph 573 238-5673).



Expanded metal rock guard helps keep flying rocks from breaking tractor cab's rear window.



Adjustable metal "calf catcher" consists of 2 hinged pieces connected to a short handle. It fits behind the head of a calf to help hold it still while a ground crew works.

"Calf Catcher" Makes Branding Easier

"Our new calf-catching fork makes catching calves a faster and easier job. It's safe for the calves and takes the work out of branding," says Kyle Carhart, Dove Creek, Colo.

The "Calf Catcher" is an adjustable metal device that holds the front end of the calf so it can easily be rolled and handled. It fits behind the head of a calf, to help hold it still while a ground crew works.

The unit consists of 2 hinged pieces connected to a short handle. The hoop-shaped piece on top is designed to fold out and go over the animal's head. A rope and inner tube is tied to the handle.

To use the Calf Catcher, a mounted rider heels the calf, then drags it past the ground crew where one of the members slips the hoop-shaped piece behind the calf's head. As the heeler continues to drag the calf, the rope and inner tube is staked into the ground (if the mounted rider pulls too hard, the inner tube will take up some of the slack). Once the

rope and inner tube are tight, the heeler quits dragging but continues to hold the rope as the calf is worked on.

"The Calf Catcher makes branding go faster because it eliminates the need to bind the animal's front legs. Once it's on the animal, the animal is stretched out and totally helpless," says Carhart. "We developed it a few years ago for use on our own ranch. Local ranchers helped us test it, and we've continued to make slight adjustments until now we think it works perfect in every way," says Carhart.

The Calf Catcher sells for \$100 plus S&H. It comes with the inner tube and stake. The customer supplies the rope. Watch the Calf Catcher in action on www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kyle Carhart, 8984 Road 6.8 Loop, Dove Creek, Colo. 81324 (ph 970 560-5770; kcarhart1@yahoo.com; www.mycalfcatcher.com).



Hook Doctor has a small hook at one end that helps catch a calf by the leg.

Hook Doctor Helps Control Cattle Safely

An invention initially designed for humans has proven just as effective to control livestock. Several years ago, the basic design of the Theracane for back massage was adapted for the Hook Doctor to humanely control cattle.

Grant Ritchey, owner of Ritchey Tags, helped with manufacturing the tool for humans.

He recalls the day the vet came to his ranch and needed help while mouthing cattle - checking their teeth for age.

"I had the Theracane in the house and brought it out. Cows have big cheeks and this has a round ball that fits between the cheek and gum with no pressure," Ritchey notes. "It opens their mouths so they show their teeth. It's non-invasive to the cow and provides safety to the person controlling her."

The tool worked so well, that Ritchey modified it by lengthening it and adding a small hook on the end to help catch a calf by a leg, using the same principal as a chicken hook.

The dual-purpose Hook Doctor is handy to hang in a shed or on an ATV, and its bright orange color makes it easy to find. It's useful for a variety of procedures including administering boluses, drenching and ear tagging, Ritchey says.



Round ball on tool fits between cow's cheek and gum, opening her mouth.

Owners of other livestock, such as sheep and goats, use it for sorting the herd.

"A lot of people still purchase it for the human side to work on their feet or back. They buy two, one for the home and one for the squeeze chute," Ritchey says.

Made of durable plastic, the Hook Doctor sells for \$49.95 through the Ritchey online store or can be purchased through a Ritchey dealer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ritchey Livestock ID, 13821 Sable Blvd., Brighton, Colo. 80601 (ph 800 327-8247; www.ritcheytags.com).