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Big Bale "Windbreak" Is Ideal Alternative To Trees

If you need a windbreak and don't have time to wait for trees to grow, you might want to take a look at how Iowa farmer Bill Couser uses big round bales to protect his feedlot in winter.

He makes a two-tiered wall of bales along the north side of his 10-acre, feedlot. The bottom row of 5 by 6-ft. bales stands on end while the top row lays crosswise to form an

11-ft. high barrier.

The windbreak consists of 400 bales, half of them soybean straw and the other half corn stalks. It's set back 75 ft. from the fence around the feedlot.

"The bale windbreak acts like a snowfence so snow drops between the windbreak and the fence," he says. "On a really cold windy day, it feels like there's a 40-degree differ-

ence between the outside of the bales and inside of the cattle yard because of the protection it provides."

Not only do the bales serve as a windbreak, they're also a source of feed and bedding for the 1,500 to 2,000 head of cattle the feedlot turns out every year.

"We start feeding our windbreak bales when we run out of hay, typically in March,"

he says. "The soybean straw makes excellent feed and the corn stalk bales make excellent bedding at our other feedlot," says Couser.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Couser, 20408 620th Ave., Nevada, Iowa 50201 (ph 515 382-6101 or 2599).

Calf Catch Gate Works Great

Ethel Quinn farms by herself near Flatbush, Alberta, so she values any idea that makes her job easier. That's why she's so pleased with her calf-catch gate that takes the stress out of catching calves that need treatment.

The sliding "calf gate" works on any ordinary fence panel.

Quinn set up a 10 by 30-ft. catch pen along one wall. She installed a sliding gate on one side. To entice the calves inside she puts a bale inside the pen. Calves come and go as they please and when Ethel sees an animal that needs medical attention, she simply slides the calf gate shut. She also uses the calf gate as a creep pen to provide extra wa-

ter or grain to calves without competition from cows. And she feeds chopped silage in the pen for the last six weeks before selling the calves.

To make the sliding gate, she cut out about 3 ft. of the second and third bars on the end of a fence panel. Then she made a replacement section with two pieces of bar made from smaller diameter pipe that slides inside the calf panel pipes. An upright slides back and forth on the horizontal pipe above and below. The gate opens about 3 ft. wide.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ethel Quinn, General Delivery, Flatbush, Alberta, Canada T0G 02 (ph 780 681-2230).



Sliding "calf gate" works on any ordinary fence panel. Quinn uses it to catch calves inside a 10 by 30-ft. pen along one wall inside her barn.

Rear-Mount Rock Bucket

"Several years my father and I bought a Rock-O-Matic rock bucket for our front-end loader. We wanted something that would let one person pick up rocks alone, especially rocks that were too big to drive over with planting equipment," says Daniel C. Wagner, Campbellsport, Wis.

"The problem with the front bucket was that we couldn't see what we were doing over the hood of the tractor. We decided we wanted to put the rock bucket on the back of the tractor but we couldn't find a rear-mount loader for a 100 hp. tractor, so we decided to make our own.

"The main frame is made from an old front loader off a tractor that had a narrow front end and straight lift arms. My father made brackets that bolt to the rear axle of the tractor. They are basically a clevis that the lift arms connect to with a pin. The brackets stay on the tractor all the time and are not in the way. The only other part that is attached to the tractor is a cross beam that runs across the 3-pt. hitch arms.

"There is another pin and clevis bracket where the lift arm of the rock picker attaches to the beam. It keeps the arm from binding

as the rock picker goes up and down because the axle pivot and 3-pt. hitch pivot are not exactly the same point. The bucket has a pivot point on the fork that is different than when the bucket was on the front-end loader. The bucket tips with two 24-in. cylinders.

"The whole unit is easily visible by the driver. It works best to skim along the ground. Dirt shakes out through the spaces in the teeth. You can pick rocks one at a time or keep picking up more rocks until the bucket is full.

"The bucket lifts high enough to dump into a pile several feet high.

"You can also use the bucket to dig a bigger rock out of the ground by working the teeth down into the ground. It's surprising what it'll dig up.

"Some manufacturer should put a unit like this on the market. It's very simple and strong, because all the pushing is done by the lift arms attached to the axle brackets."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel C. Wagner, W4748 State Road 67, Campbellsport, Wis. 53010 (ph 920 269-4895).



Dan Wagner and his father converted this commercial loader-mounted rock bucket to a 3-pt. model they say is much easier to see from the tractor cab.



Bucket tips with two 24-in. cylinders. The main frame is from an old front-end loader.



Bucket lifts high enough to dump into a pile several feet high.