



Firewood marker holds a can of yellow paint that's triggered by a "finger" that he bumps against log.

## Firewood Marker Makes Uniform Cuts Easy

"You can waste many hours marking firewood to length before cutting with a chainsaw. Most of my wood-burning customers want their wood cut to certain lengths to fit their fireboxes," says Jim Criss, Lindley, N.Y.

"I was cutting wood last year and marking off lengths with a stick and spray can when the idea for this firewood marker hit me like a bolt of lightning. I headed right to the hardware store to purchase the inexpensive components I needed to put this marker together.

"A piece of 1 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe makes up the main frame, along with a 3-in. saddle flange which holds a curb marker paint can. It's attached with a U-bolt. A 'finger' that triggers the paint can is made from pieces of light angle iron and the head of a carriage bolt, all welded together. Another carriage bolt, that goes through the handle, is used as a variable length indicator. The handle is marked off at 12, 14, 16 and 18 in. There's a hole through the handle by each number.



To make mark you touch finger trigger against log to make a yellow mark.

"You just put the carriage bolt on the end of the log and then touch the finger trigger against the log to make a yellow mark.

"You can mark an entire log in seconds with little effort.

"I'm patenting this new tool and plan to have available for sale in the near future."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Criss, 64 Stoddard Rd., Lindley, N.Y. 14858 (ph 607 523-8083).

## Simple "Detector" Finds Underground Leaks

When a leak developed underground in one of his water lines, Mark Himes, Beecher City, Ill., had a frustrating time trying to find the leak.

Finally, out of desperation, he came up with an idea that worked so well he wants to share it with others.

What he did was to tape a styrofoam cup upside down to the top of a 5-ft. long piece of 2-in. dia. pvc pipe. Then he taped a doctor's stethoscope to the bottom of the cup.

"It's unbelievable how well it works to detect leaks. I can hear water coming out of a small leak from about 50 ft. away. As I move closer to it, it sounds like a waterfall," says Himes.

He found his problem leak – which was 4 ft. under ground – by following the waterline out from the pump. The leak turned out to be a crack in the pressure line brought on by uneven settling of ground. "Finding the leak saved me from having to dig up the entire pipe," says Himes.

Before coming up with his homemade leak detector, Himes checked out commercial models and discovered they are available but sell for as much as \$1,000. He doubts any commercial unit works better than the one he put together.

"It's best to use it on a calm day because it's so sensitive it'll pick up wind noise," he notes.

Himes thinks you could use his detector to track moles and other underground pest animals, although he hasn't tried it. You could use the detector to find where they're digging and then stab them by poking through the ground with a pitch fork or other sharp object.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark



Himes taped a styrofoam cup upside down to the top of a 5-ft. long piece of 2-in. dia. pvc pipe. Then he taped a doctor's stethoscope to the bottom of cup.

Himes, Rt. 1, Box 107A, Beecher City, Ill. 62414 (ph 618 487-5324).

## Front-Mount Rake Saves Time, Helps Make Better Bales

You'll get your hay baled faster and make better bales with this new front-mount hay rake, according to Henry Lutz, inventor.

The rake consists of six 36-in. dia. rake wheels mounted on a steel frame that clamps to the loader arm brackets on any tractor. Each arm is suspended independently from a hinge point just in front of the tractor. A small wheel on front of each arm allows the rake to flex over uneven ground. The entire unit is raised or lowered by a single hydraulic cylinder.

"It lets you do two jobs at once and eliminates the need for another tractor and operator," says Lutz. "It works better than hay gathering wheels because you still have to drive over the windrow and you can't put two swaths together.

"The windrow that our rake makes is exactly the same width as the baler pickup so you can make an even bale that not only has a better shape but also has a greater density with tighter ends. There's no need to swerve left or right in order to make an even bale. Also, hay is moved to the inside of the tractor wheels so the tractor doesn't drive on the windrow. There's less leaf loss because with fewer and bigger windrows the bale is made faster.

"If the hay is a little wet in the morning you can unhitch the baler and just rake for a while, then hook the baler back up when the hay starts to dry and rake and bale at the same time again. There's no need to follow the swath because everything that the rake touches is baled. Another advantage is that if it's windy, the baler gets the hay before



"There are many benefits to raking hay ahead of your tractor as you bale," says Henry Lutz, who came up with this 20-ft. wide front-mount rake. Six 36-in. dia. rake wheels mount on a steel frame that clamps to the loader arm brackets on any tractor.

the wind can blow the swath away. Also, you bale all the hay that's raked so no hay is exposed to rain and spoilage. Anything that's raked is baled."

The center part of the frame is equipped with a spreader bar that keeps the rake spread to its full 20-ft. raking position. The two arms come together for transport by simply pulling a pin and raising the rake so the arms come together into an 8-ft. wide transport position. When you get to the field, you lower the rig and the two arms move wide open as you drive ahead. Then you insert a pin to hold them in place.

The front-mount rake is equipped with two sets of cables – one to lift both arms and the other to keep the arms from going too wide.

"We can make brackets to match any front-end loader mounting brackets. If you want to use a tractor that doesn't have a loader, you can bolt a steel plate on each side of the tractor frame," notes Lutz.

Sells for about \$8,000 plus S&H (Canadian). A model with four wheels on each side that covers 24 ft. at a time is available and sells for about \$8,700 (Canadian) plus S&H.

Lutz says he's looking for a manufacturer.



Each arm is suspended independently from a hinge point just in front of tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Henry Lutz, Box 4, Site 25, Rt. 2, Carvel, Alberta, Canada T0E 0H0 (ph 780 963-1663).