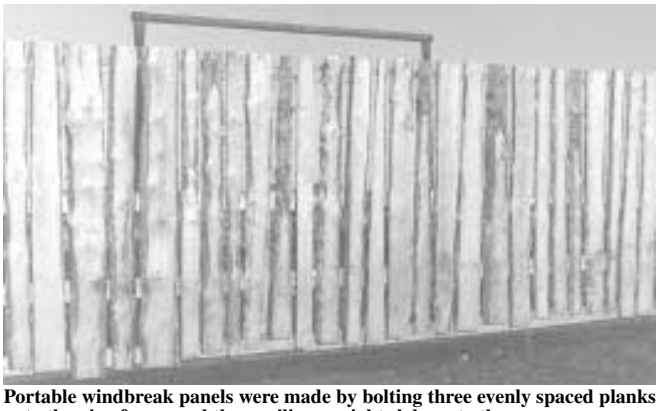
Frame of each 30 by 5-ft. panel is made from oilfield drillstem pipe while the cross-pieces are made from sucker rod.



Portable windbreak panels were made by bolting three evenly spaced planks onto the pipe frame and then nailing upright slabs onto them.

By Janis Schole

Recycled Pipe Used To Create "Moveable" Feedlot

In an effort to keep his cattle pens from deteriorating, an Alberta feedlot operator designed an unusual system that gives him maximum layout flexibility, strength, and cost-effectiveness while virtually eliminating the need for fence maintenance.

Lorne Semler runs a 4,000 head feedlot and uses his home-built portable fencing panels for the entire lot. He got the idea after seeing a pasture catch pen based on the same basic concept.

The frame of each 30 by 5 ft. panel is made from oilfield drillstem pipe. The cross-pieces are made from sucker rod. Five upright posts, made from "sinker bar rod", provide added strength. Two 5-ft. wide "feet" are centered cross-wise under the frame, welded to the base of each post. They provide enough stability to keep cattle from knocking the fence panels over.

Semler's feedlot corrals consist of 500 portable panels, totaling 15,000 ft. or about three miles of iron fence. He says the system was less expensive to build than plank fence with the added advantage of being totally portable. All components are welded together.

He purchased materials from oil companies and salvage outfits. Each panel cost him about $150 including material and labor. Panels weigh about 650 lbs. and are easily moved with a tractor and front end loader. Semler tried to buy as much sucker rod with scrapers on it as possible, since it was slightly cheaper and the scrapers provide something for the cattle to rub on that can't be damaged.

"When the ground begins to deteriorate in the pens, I simply "pull" the pens and bring in a dozer to create a brand new surface," he says. "I can also resize a pen anytime I want." The panels also work well as a "quick catch" system for cattle out on pasture where there are no handling facilities.

Semler expanded on his fence panel idea and modified it to create portable windbreak panels as well. He used a pipe frame of the same dimensions and bolted on three evenly spaced planks before nailing upright slabs onto the planks. Feet were positioned similarly on the bottom, but their length was extended to 8 ft. because the extra wind pressure demanded added stability.

A 10-ft. lifting bar is located at the top above the slabs to allow easy access for the teeth of a front end loader bucket. In this way, the panels can be lifted and moved around without the operator having to leave the seat of the tractor.

Semler says the windbreak panels work well and cost about $250 per panel for materials and labor.

Wind and waterproof enclosure is made from heavy-duty poly stretched over a strong but lightweight steel frame that attaches to front and rear brackets on ATV.

Nifty Cab For ATV's

Working in bad weather on an ATV is a lot easier with this new ATV cab introduced at the recent Husker Harvest Days near Grand Island, Neb.

The Comfort Cover is 38 in. wide, 71 in. long, and 43 1/2 in. high. The wind and waterproof enclosure is made from heavy duty poly stretched over a strong but lightweight steel frame that attaches to the ATV with front and rear brackets. The poly is fastened into place with Velcro patches. Vinyl side doors zipper shut.

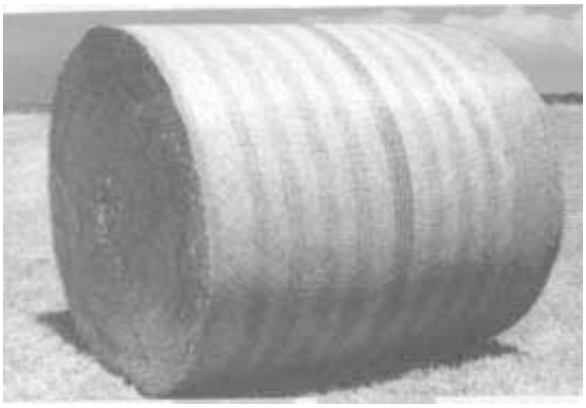
"It keeps you out of the rain and cold and traps some of the engine's heat to help keep you warm," says inventor Michael Kraft. "It's small enough that you can still travel easily through woods, brush, and other tight places. The oversized front windshield offers maximum visibility, while side and rear windows allow for a 360 degree view. The cab can be quickly removed when not needed.

"It really comes in handy on our ranch during the spring calving season, when the weather is often cold and miserable. The driver can bring the calf right inside the cab with him. On our ranch we throw the calf right over the gas tank, with the calf's mother following behind."

Models are available to fit all ATV brands. Available in black and camouflage.

Sells for $279 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael A. Kraft, 3630 South Locust, Grand Island, Neb. 68801 (ph 308 382-3181).



Striping is reversed on each side of bale so you can tell at a glance which way bale was rolled up.

Zebra-Striped Bale Wrap Makes Unrolling Easier

New "Zebra" bale wrap netting makes handling easier by indicating which direction a bale is rolled up. If you unroll bales on the ground for feeding, it lets you know at a glance which side is which.

The idea originally came from a large rancher in Montana who found it time-consuming to determine which way each bale needed to be unrolled in order to put down hay or straw.

"This fellow used 1,500 bales each year and found that his hired man needed to get out of the tractor each time he fed a bale to find out which way it was rolled up. The rancher and his wife began spray painting each bale to identify the left and right sides but approached bale wrap manufacturer, Ambraco, to see if a simpler solution could be found.

Strips are reversed on either side of bale so you can tell at a glance which way bale was rolled up.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Huntington, Ambraco, Box 506, Dubuque, Iowa, 52004 (ph 800 225-8946; fax 319 583-3531; E-mail ambraco1@mwci.net); Website: www.ambraco.com