

# Making Use Of Highway Guard Rails



“Cattle can’t break it or push it down and the posts don’t rot,” says Lowell Weitzenkamp about the fencing he makes out of used guard rails.

## Used Guard Rails Make Great Fences, Siding

Lowell Weitzenkamp says used highway guard rails work great for fencing and can stand up to any abuse from cattle.

The used guard rails come in 13 and 26-ft. lengths. “We use the shorter lengths for posts. It’s easy to push them into the ground using just the bucket on a loader tractor. Then we bolt on two guard rails to make a two-rail fence. Cattle can’t break it or push it down and the posts don’t rot,” Weitzenkamp says.

To attach the upper rail, they can use the existing holes already punched in the guardrails. They have to drill holes to bolt on the lower rail.

Weitzenkamp also uses guard rails for roofing on shelters that keep rain out of feed

bunks, and for siding to make windbreaks. And they’ve found they can even make rain troughs from the guard rails to channel water off the shelter roofs and away from bunks.

At \$1 to \$1.50 a running foot, Weitzenkamp says used guard rail is a bargain, especially considering how heavy it’s built and the ease of installing it. He buys guard rail from scrap dealers and sometimes can get it direct from construction companies. He notes that several dealers advertise in the classified ad sections of farm newspapers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lowell Weitzenkamp, 723 Heatherwood Dr., Fremont, Neb. 68025 (ph 402 567-2285).

## Portable Fence Panels From Guard Rails

Dick Kruger runs about 80 to 100 head of cattle, mostly on small rented pastures. If he needs a corral to pen up his animals in those pastures, he has to bring his own.

Since he’d operated a wrecking yard for several years, he knew where to find used highway guard rails. “I’ve made 15 to 20 portable fence sections out of guard rails, putting them on wheels,” he says, noting that guard rails come in 13 and 26-ft. lengths.

He puts a set of guard rail fence panels on top of an auto rear end with wheels. He mounts a sturdy center post on the axle made of 2 by 2-in. angle iron to attach the panels to. Then he runs a couple of angle braces up to the fence panels.

To tow the portable panel, he attaches a length of angle iron to the front of the lowest rail with two bolts and attaches this to the drawbar on his vehicle with a clevis. When he arrives at the field, he removes one of the bolts that fasten the hitch piece to the guardrail and swivels it down to the ground to make a stabilizer leg that keeps the fence panel level. There’s a similar length of angle iron on the back.



Dick Kruger makes portable fence sections by putting a set of guard rail fence panels on top of an auto rear end with wheels.

He says the portable panels can blow over if they’re not anchored, but if two are put together at an angle, you can fasten them together at the corner with a chain and they can’t be tipped by cattle or the wind.

In addition to fence panels, Kruger has made portable round bale feeders and even a stationary crowding alley from used guard rail.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dick Kruger, 25225 SW Grahams Ferry Rd., Sherwood, Ore. 97140 (ph 503 682-3943).

## Another Use For Guard Rail

When Roger and Bruce Elliott, Montrose, Ill., decided to switch from two 1,000 gal. propane tanks to a single 2,500 gal. tank, they didn’t know the bigger tank would require state approval. However, after pouring a foundation for the tank, they learned about the requirements. The tank must be at least 50 ft. from any structure but fortunately, the only thing they had to move was a plenum on one of their grain bins.

Since the Elliotts believe in taking all safety steps possible, they put a complete guard rail around the tank. The rail was purchased from Harris Maintenance, Watson, Ill., which supplies guard rails to meet highway requirements. They also mounted a fire extinguisher on one corner of the rail fence.



Roger and Bruce Elliott put a complete guard rail around a newly-installed 2,500-gal. propane tank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elliott Bros., 19478 N. 400 St., Montrose, Ill. 62245 (ph 217 924-4350).



One-piece, fiberglass ATV enclosure bolts onto ATV’s front and rear racks.

## “Easy-On, Easy-Off” ATV Cab

“Our new one-piece fiberglass ATV enclosure is easy to install and is built heavy for long-time use,” says Wendell Whittle, Avalon Mfg., Milton, Fla.

The fiberglass enclosure measures 43 in.

wide by 58 in. long and comes with front and rear safety-laminated glass windows. Both sides of the enclosure are open. The unit mounts on the ATV’s front and rear racks with four U-clamps and requires drilling holes into

flanges on front and back of the unit. It weighs about 40 lbs.

“It’s built solid and is much more durable than conventional fabric enclosures because it can’t rip,” says Whittle. “It greatly reduces your exposure to brush and tree limbs. The safety-laminated glass used in the windows is similar to the glass on a car windshield, so if the glass breaks you’re not likely to get hurt.”

The unit comes in a standard Shadowood

gray color but is also available in camouflauge. Fits most ATV brands and models.

Sells for \$469 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Avalon Manufacturing, Inc., 2944 Avalon Boulevard, Milton, Florida 32583 (ph 850 994-0559; fax 850 994-5862; E-mail: buckhouse@thebuckhouse.com).

## Where To Buy Highway Guard Rails

Here’s a “where to buy” list of companies that sell guard rails.

**Stickle Feedlot**  
3969 Buffalo Ridge Rd.  
Anamosa, Iowa 52205  
ph 319 462-2030

**Safety Products**  
Box 1955  
Fort Lee, N.J. 07024  
ph 800 634-6564

**Harris Maintenance, 6082 N. U.S. Hwy. 45**  
Watson, Ill. 62473, ph 217 536-5491

**Stoll Guard Rail Sales Co.**  
110 C.R. 3694  
Springtown, Texas 76082  
ph 877 447-8655

**Carol Construction Co.**  
10780 S.W. Clutter  
Sherwood, Ore. 97140  
ph 503 682-2252