



Farley Cole used highway guard rail to build a loading chute and a corral that measures 30 ft. wide by 60 ft. long.

Corral, Loading Chute Made From Used Highway Guard Rail

Farley Cole says used highway guard rail works great for making corrals and loading chutes because the rails can stand up to almost any abuse from cattle.

The Girard, Ill., farmer constructed a three-sided corral that measures 30 ft. wide by 60 ft. long. The corral's 5 1/2-ft. high fence is made up of three guard rails, which bolt to heavy steel posts made from posts that the rails originally mounted on.

"Cattle can't push this fence down and the posts won't rot," says Cole. "The guard rails, as well as the bolts and nuts, are made from super galvanized, heavily zinc-coated iron and ought to last a long time."

He bought the 12-in. guard rail at a salvage yard for 8 to 10 cents a pound. "My total cost for the guard rail was about \$50, which I think is a bargain, especially considering how heavy it's built and the ease of installing it," says Cole.

The vertical guard rail posts were originally 8 ft. long. Cole lengthened them to 12 ft. and buried them 4 to 5 ft. in the ground. He did that by cutting some extra posts in half and welding the half sections to other posts. "We

pushed them into the ground using the bucket on a loader tractor. We had to pound them down the last foot," notes Cole.

To attach the rails, most of the time he was able to use the existing holes already punched in the guard rails. In some cases, however, he had to drill holes to bolt on the rails.

Cole's loading chute stands about 10 ft. high in front and has a deck that can be adjusted at two levels for various truck heights. The tall end of the loading chute is anchored by two 8-in. dia. steel pipes. "To attach the guard rails to the pipes we cut holes in the pipe big enough for the head of a bolt to pass through, then cut a slot below and slid the guard rail with a bolt on the back side of it down into the slot and tightened it up. We used guard rail bolts which have a large carriage head with a tab on it that keeps the bolt from rotating as it's tightened up," notes Cole.

He adds that you can also use the guard rails themselves as posts.

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Soft flannel covers can be custom-fitted to tractors and wagons. Covers are made from water-resistant 12-oz. canvas on one side and soft flannel on the other.

Soft Covers Protect Stored Tractors

If you've got an antique tractor that needs a bit more protection, you'll be interested in these soft flannel custom-fitted covers from Rainbow Industries, Inc., S. Vienna, Ohio.

The covers are made from water-resistant 12-oz. canvas on one side and soft flannel on the other side. It has an elastic bottom with reinforced grommets in some locations, allowing you to pull the cover tight and also quickly put it on or off. According to the

company, the material is stronger than cotton and won't rot. "The soft material definitely won't mar your tractor," says Joe Schmidt.

Covers can be custom made for virtually any tractor brand or model.

Prices start at \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rainbow Industries, Inc., Box 506, S. Vienna, Ohio 45369 (ph 800 388-8277).

Loader-Mounted Hedge Trimmer

A Manitoba farmer says he's come up with an inexpensive way to make his own hedge trimmer. He converted an old 3-pt. sickle mower to mount on his front-end loader.

Jerry De Blonde, who farms near Swan Lake, modified a Massey Ferguson pitmanless, 3-pt. mower. It slips onto forks on his Versatile bi-directional tractor. The mower is belt-driven by an orbit motor, allowing it to cut both horizontally and vertically.

"I use it to cut both the sides and tops of shrubs, small trees, and hedges. I can go up one side of a hedge and down the other, and also across the top," says De Blonde. "I can trim as high or low as the loader allows. I left the 3-pt. mounting brackets on the mower so I can still use it to mow hay."

De Blonde bought the mower from a neighbor cheap. He removed the pto shaft and mounted the orbit motor in its place on a homemade shaft and coupling setup. He used lengths of channel iron to make brackets that fit onto the loader forks.

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"It works great for cutting both the sides and tops of hedges," says Jerry De Blonde, who modified an old 3-pt. sickle mower to mount on his front-end loader.



Mower slips onto loader forks and is belt-driven by an orbit motor.



Brent Brueland took down a 5,000-bu. grain bin piece by piece and converted it into this 20 by 30-ft. hoop building. It mounts on two 3-ft. tall "knee walls".

Grain Bin Converted Into Hoop-Type Storage Shed

Old grain bins can be used to make low-cost hoop buildings, says Brent Brueland, Boone, Iowa, who took down a neighbor's 5,000-bu. grain bin piece by piece and converted it into a 20 by 30-ft. hoop building that's 14 ft. high at the center.

The bin was originally six rings high, with 11 sections per ring. He first built two 3-ft. tall wooden "knee walls" spaced 20 ft. apart. He bolted five bin sections together on top of the walls to form the roof. He closed off one end of the building and left the other open for easy access for storing hay and machinery.

"My total cost was about \$300 for the walls and end and \$200 for new bin bolts and caulk to assemble the roof panels," says Brueland.



He closed off one end of building and left the other open for easy access.

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