

Tramlines are tracks left in small grain fields to serve as guides for spraying and top dressing to prevent costly skips and overlaps.

POPULAR IN EUROPE, THEY'RE NOW CATCHING ON IN THE U.S.

Get Set To Try Tramlines!

"Tramlines are the hottest innovation going in this area," says Jim Lafferty, of Fredericksburg, Va. Jim's a John Deere dealer and the first in North America, so far as he knows, to offer a mechanical cut-off "Tramline Kit" for grain drills. "I've equipped more than 20 drills in this immediate area and we're doing more of them all the time."

Tramlines are tracks left in small grain fields to serve as guides for spraying and top dressing to prevent costly skips and overlaps. They're used extensively in Europe, especially in Germany and England.

Lafferty's drill kit costs about \$1,400 and is available for current model (fluted feed) Deere, Great Plains and Case-IH drills. The kit allows the operator to flip a switch, as needed, during planting to activate the cut-off mechanism on the two drill rows selected for creating the tramline tracks. They're twice as wide as the drill row spacing and individual pairs are spaced about 45 ft. apart. The sprayer width must be a multiple of the drill width. For example, a farmer with a 15 ft. drill would need a 45 or 60 ft. sprayer boom. In cases where the arithmetic doesn't work out, it may be necessary to block off an outside nozzle or two.

Lafferty feels his tramline kit is cost competitive with foam or dye markers: "The

key advantage is that you can go in late in the season and not harm the crop. Because of reduced competition for light, moisture and nutrients, crop rows along a tramline will generally yield enough additional grain to compensate for the unseeded area. Also, tramlines often allow farmers in the field sooner after a rain since the unshaded tracks dry out quickly."

Some farmers are using chemicals rather than drills to make tramlines. They simply rig the sprayer (or tractor) with a nozzle behind each wheel to spray a narrow strip of "burndown" herbicide, such as Roundup. One problem, however, is that you need a flagman or foam marker for the first trip over the crop when you apply the "burndown" chemical to create the tramlines.

Lafferty notes that it doesn't work to simply block off selected seed metering cups. "The seed piles up, gets ground up and soon starts spilling over," he points out. His kit includes an electronic controller, activator switch, two seed metering cup conversions with clutches, splicer couplings and a wiring harness.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greenline Service Corp., Box 7208, Fredericksburg, Va. 22404 (ph 703 373-7520).

SPRING-LOADED APRONS POP BACK UP AFTER YOU DRIVE OVER THEM

No Pit Needed For New "Pop-Up" Cattle Guard

"It pops back up after you drive over it and can be easily transported in your pickup," says Lee Combs, Holdenville, Okla., about his new portable "pop-up" cattle guard.

The patented unit consists of three aprons mounted inside a steel framework held 6 in. above ground. The aprons are made up of 2-in. dia. oil drilling pipe spaced 4 in. apart. The ends of two hinge pipes on either side of the center apron are pinned to coil springs mounted inside a pair of 5-in. dia., 3-ft. high steel posts on each side of the guard. When a vehicle goes over the cattle guard, it forces the aprons down. As soon as the vehicle's rear wheels leave the guard, the springs pop the aprons back up.

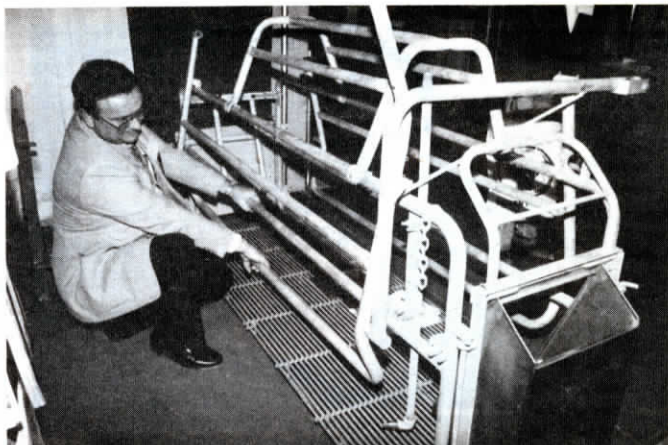
"You can put it in your pickup and move it to any location. It rests on dry ground and

is raised 6 in. so it always stays clean. The 2-in. dia. pipes are so strong that heavy trucks can't bend them. Spring tension can be adjusted by moving a pin inside each post. Installation takes only about an hour," says Combs.

The guards are available in 10, 12, 14, and 16-ft. widths. A 10-ft. model sells for under \$500.

Non-spring cattle guards forming a solid inverted "V" are also available for use between pastures. They're designed for use by pickups or trucks but not cars. A 10-ft. model sells for under \$400 and a 16-ft. model for under \$900.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Combs, Rt. 4, P.O. Box 185, Holdenville, Okla. 74848 (ph 405 379-5842).



Hydraulic compression cylinder allows both sides of crate to expand outward as sow lies down, lowering her slowly to the floor and giving baby pigs time to move away.

SIDES OF CRATE SLOWLY PUSH OUT AS SOW LIES DOWN TO PREVENT CRUSHING

New Hydraulic Crate Helps Keep Pigs Alive

A new European-designed hydraulic farrowing crate prevents the crushing of baby pigs to increase litter survival rates without the drawbacks of conventional pig-saving devices, according to the distributor, Hog Slat, Inc., Newton Grove, N. C.

The Proctor farrowing crate is equipped with a hydraulic compression cylinder which allows both sides of the crate to expand outward as the sow lies down, lowering her slowly and gently to the floor and giving baby pigs time to move away. When the sow stands back up again, the cylinder retracts, pulling the sides of the crate in close to her sides.

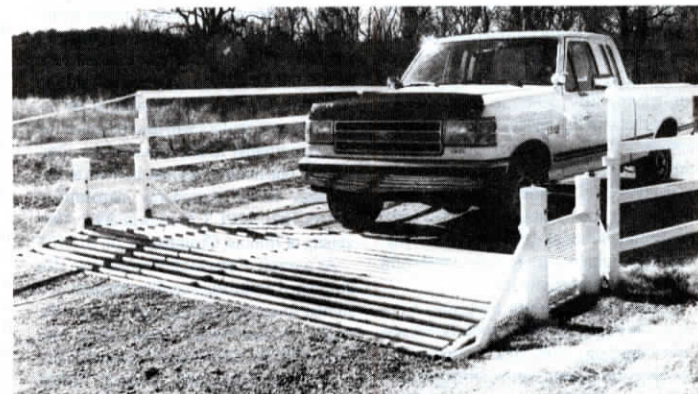
"This crate reduces mortalities by one-quarter to one-half pig per sow," says Shelton Johnson, sales manager. "It works better than crates equipped with fixed-position bars because it gives baby pigs better access to the sow's udder. The crate works especially well for large sows because the expandable sides allow the sow to ease down gently instead of falling down. Since there

are no bar obstructions, even the largest sows can nurse in comfort and the smallest pigs can get a full feed. When the sow stands back up again, the crate's sides press in close to the sow (a 17-in. width), creating a safe area for the pigs. This safety area is further expanded with an easily adjustable rump guard, which also protects pigs during birth. An adjustable chain is used to set expansion width of the crate from 25 to 36 in. depending on the size of the sow."

The crate is equipped with nipple waterers for the sow and pigs as well as a stainless steel feeder which can be removed for ease of cleaning. The 7-ft. long crate can be set up with 4 1/2- or 5-ft. wide stalls.

Galvanized crates complete with feeder and nipple waterers sell for \$320; painted crates sell for \$290.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hog Slat Inc., P.O. Box 308, Newton Grove, N. Car. 28366 (ph toll-free 800 334-6465; in N. Car. 800 682-1103, or 919 594-0219).



New "pop-up" cattle guard rests on dry ground, eliminating the need to dig a pit.