



“Hot” cattle guard is tied into an electric fence and floats a few inches above the ground.

Electric Cattle Guard Floats In The Air

Install Evan Rayl’s electric cattle guard and forget about opening gates. Tied into an electric fence, the “hot” cattle guard floats a few inches above the ground. It’s high enough to stop livestock, but not so high as to snag on passing equipment.

One problem with traditional cattle guards made from concrete and pipe is the time and materials needed to build them. Also, over time they can fill in or bend under load if not built strong enough. Rayl’s design overcomes these problems and is lightweight and easy to install. It’s ideal for temporary use with moveable pasture fencing, as well as for permanent installations.

The gate consists of two 6-ft. long rigid sidebars made from 1-in. steel tubing and a 2 by 4 connected to 3-ft. tall uprights made from steel tubing.

Lengths of rigid gas pipe insert into the feet of the side uprights to stabilize and maintain a distance between the uprights of about 10 ft.

A web of eleven 10-ft. long, 1/8-in. cables are strung across the opening.

“The cables have about 7 in. clearance from



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the ground, which is good for most types of equipment,” says Rayl. “ATV’s generally have less than 7 in. clearance, so I place two 2 by 12-in. boards under the wires. This reduces clearance to only 5 in., allowing ATV’s to pass over with no problem.”

Rayl says the cattle guard requires little maintenance. Livestock that try it pull back after touching the first wire.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Evan Rayl, 1022 230th St., Bridgewater, Iowa 50837 (ph 641 369-4092).

Propane-Powered Fencepost Driver

The explosive power of ignited propane powers Dennis Tippmann’s Propane Hammer. The 45-lb. portable post driver is powerful enough to slam T-posts into frozen ground.

“I’ve always thought most automatic post drivers were too complicated,” says Tippmann. “I have horses so I’m always messing around with fences. We had developed a propane powered paint ball gun, and I could see how the energy could be used to drive posts.”

Tippmann was one of the earliest developers of paint ball guns and has worked with pneumatic equipment extensively in several industries, including pneumatic powered die presses and stitching equipment. That experience was used to develop the self-contained Propane Hammer.

The post driver has basically one moving part, the piston. Propane feeds into the cylinder from a 14-oz. propane tank that mounts on the driver. Ignition by the 9-volt spark system is triggered by a switch on the hammer handle and produces a 700-lb. driving force against the ram. When activated, the hammer pounds out 150 blows per minute. Each canister is projected to produce about 6,000 cycles. At 30 cycles per post, one tank of fuel should average about 200 posts, depending on soil conditions and post type.

While developed for T-posts, interchangeable ram collars allow it to be used on a variety of other post types. The ram system can handle posts up to 2 1/2 in. diameter.

“Silt fence stake driving is a big use,” says Tippmann. “It’s normally a sledge hammer job, but it can go a lot faster with our Propane Hammer. It’s also popular with highway crews. They often have to replace a single highway sign. They can do it any time



Dennis Tippmann says his propane-powered fencepost driver is powerful enough to slam T-posts into frozen ground.

of the year with this unit without having to load up a big hydraulic unit.”

Portability is a big plus with the Hammer. While heavier than a manual post driver, it’s much lighter than other power units. It can also be carried into marshy ground and limited space areas where a tractor-mounted driver can’t go.

At this time the newly introduced Propane Hammer can only be purchased directly from Tippmann Industrial Products. Retail price is \$1,995 and includes a carrying/storage case. Adapters are extra.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tippmann Industrial Products, 3518 Adams Center Rd., Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46806 (ph 260 441-9603 or toll free 866 286-8046; fax 260 441-8264; www.propanehammer.com).



“Thanks to its hydrostatic drive, it works great for mowing and blowing snow,” says Charlie Anderson, who converted an Owatonna swather into a mower/snowblower.

Swather Converts To Mower/Blower

Converting an Owatonna swather into a giant farmyard mower and snowblower was easy, says Charlie Anderson. He got the idea - and do-it-yourself plans - from a story featured in FARM SHOW some years ago (Vol. 22, No. 4).

“Thanks to its hydrostatic drive, it’s great for mowing and blowing snow,” says Anderson. “The biggest challenge was narrowing up each side. I got out the square and the cutting torch and went to work.”

Anderson needed to narrow the axles by 40 in. to match his mower and snowblower. He also lowered the unit by 11 in. He also had to add brackets to the snowblower arms to match the arms on the swather. And he lengthened the power shaft about 10 in. to reach the swather and mower shafts.

“I cut down the arms on the swather that raised the header and attached 3-pt. hitch balls,” says Anderson.

Narrowing the axle meant mounting new hydraulic lines. Anderson turned to his equipment dealer to cut the new hoses, along with

the steel pipe that ran the width of the swather.

The pto shaft on the swather ran counter to the pto drive on the mower and blower so it needed to be reversed. Anderson used a gearbox from the discarded header, mounting it to the swather.

He also modified the mower so it could be used on the swather in the forward mode or as a traditional rear mount tractor mower. He can switch the 3-pt. around for pulling or pushing.

“I mounted the gear box on the mower so I can quickly turn it around to match the tractor shaft direction,” says Anderson.

He says the winter spent adapting the swather, blower and mower was time well spent. He estimates his costs at less than \$4,500. That includes \$2,000 for the mower and blower, \$1,600 for the swather and about \$600 for hydraulics and other miscellaneous parts.

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Anderson added brackets to snowblower arms to match the arms on the swather.



Made in Italy, the Tonutti mini baler drew a lot of interest at a recent major farm show.

Mini Baler And Plastic Wrapper

I spotted this mini round baler and wrapper at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky. Although they’ve been widely used in Europe, they’ve never quite caught on in North America.

Manufactured in Italy, the Tonutti R 500 mini round baler makes 25-in. wide, 22-in. dia. bales that weigh 55 to 66 lbs., depending on hay density. The 3-pt. mounted FW 500 bale wrapper uses 10-in. wide plastic film wrap that seals tightly enough to make bale

silage. It comes with an optional loading arm that can be operated from the tractor.

The baler sells for \$14,999. The wrapper sells for \$4,999 without the loading arm and \$7,799 with it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tonutti U.S.A., S&T Distributing, Inc., 1909 Thomas Road, Memphis, Tenn. 38134 (ph 901 385-8841; fax 901 385-8288; Ralph@tonuttiusa.com; www.tonuttiusa.com). (Bill Gergen, Senior Editor)