On-Farm Water Treatment System

You can have drinking water as safe as any provided by a big city treatment plant with this new farm-sized purification system that chlorinates and aerates water right out of your well.

"It takes up a fair amount of space and it is fairly expensive, but it may be the best alternative for people with bad wells," says Lyle Kalk, who introduced his chlorination/aeration system at the recent Western Canadian Agribition at Regina, Sask.

The system eliminates virtually all impurities, including nitrates, bringing well water to within Canadian government standards.

The system consists of a 24 by 50-in. polyethylene tank (100 gal. and up) to hold well water. The water is injected with liquid chlorine as it's brought into the tank, then aerated by a special ring at the top of the tank. Purified water is then pumped out of the tank with a 1/2 hp jet pump capable of 40 to 60 psi at 8 gpm's and through an automatic carbon and birm filter. Carbon removes chlorine and any remaining suspensions, while birm removes iron that might not have settled out in the holding tank.

Most of the impurities are manually flushed from the holding tank through a bottom drain valve.

"I've spent 25 years perfecting this system and it works perfectly in most cases. However, sometimes optional equipment like a water softener or reverse osmosis unit is required," Kalk says. "Because of the amount of equipment involved, space requirements are at least 4 by 5 by 6 1/2-ft."

System averages $4,000 (Canadian).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyle's Water Treatment Ltd., 1044 Winnipeg St., Regina, Sask., Canada S4R 8P8 (ph 306 565-8444; fax 352-3012).

New-Style Wire Stretching Tool

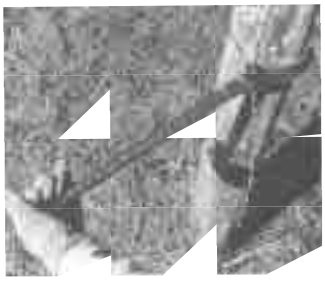
You can stretch wire fast and easy with this new one-man wire stretching tool.

The Panhandle Wire Stretcher simply grabs onto the wire in its jaws and hooks around a post for leverage. You can lean on the handle with your body, leaving both hands free for stapling.

Works on all barbed, smooth and electric wire - even small cable.

Sells for $69.95, plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Modern Farm, P.O. Box 60401, Cody. Wyo. 82414 (ph 800 443-4943).



Bale "Zipper" Cuts Twine, Handles Bales

"It's the handiest bale knife ever," says the manufacturer of the new "Bale Zipper" that cuts twine with a retractable knife blade and has a hook that can be used to pull the strings off after they're cut. The 12-in. long "Zipper" can also be used to roll big bales around, or to carry small square bales.

The triangular-shaped knife blade pivots just below the hook and folds down into a protective slot when not needed. The blade can be resharpened. Made from high impact resistant plastic, the unit has a molded hand grip with a "T" on the end that keeps it from slipping out of your hand.

Sells for $19.95 (U.S.) plus $3 S&H. Visa accepted.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, KeyAg Ventures, Rt. 4, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5E4 Canada (ph 800 268-8251 or 403 343-6342).

Easy-To-Build Horse-Drawn Power Unit

Here's a relatively simply way to build a ground-driven power unit for pto-driven equipment.

"It lets you use horses with powered equipment. Great for hay-making," says Arthur Chadwick, Sutton, N.H., who uses automotive rear ends to build powered "sulkies".

Each unit consists simply of a rear end turned backwards and fitted with auto tires. A metal platform mounts between the wheels along with a bench-type seat. A pto shaft is fitted to the shaft on the rear end so that as the wheels turn, driving the rear end, the pto turns. A drawbar pulls on the other end of the sulky. A gearbox mounted just ahead of the seat lets the operator shift the unit in and out of gear.

There's also a wagon hitch on back.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arthur Chadwick, RFD 1, Box 116A, N.H. 03221 (ph 603 927-4610 or 603 927-4973).

Farmer-Built Inventions From Great Britain

Each year, the British magazine Farmer's Weekly sponsors an inventions contest. Featured here are a few of the finalists that were recently shown in an exhibit at the Smithfield farm show in London. (Photos and details courtesy Farmer's Weekly)

Tractor Tree Planter

When Phillip Bell decided to re-forest 50 acres of his farm, he was faced with the task of planting 23,000 mixed broad-leaf trees. At first he tried commercial planting spades but they only allowed two men to put in 200 to 300 trees a day. With just

3 weeks remaining the the tree-planting season, he decided he had to find a better way.

What he came up with is a double-ended hole digging device that bolts to one rear wheel on his Zetor tractor. Made in one day out of scrap steel he found around the farm, the device digs V-shaped slots as the trctor moves slowly forward. One man drives, and another walks alongside, dropping a tree into each slot and heeling it in with his foot. When mounted on a 38-in. wheel, the devivce digs holes on 98-in. centers, which is Bell says is the perfect distance to space the trees. With the tractor mounted tree spade, the men were able to plant 1,000 trees per day and the job was finished on time.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Phillip Bell, Shatcombe Farm, Beaminster, Dorset, England.

Retractable Fence

Edwin Hardy came up with a solution to his need for temporary stock fences and gates by designing a spring-loaded, retractable fence.

It consists of a 1-in. dia. steel shaft with a 2-in. coil spring around it. One end of the spring attaches to the shaft and the other end to a 5-in. dia. PVC plastic tube that houses it and the shaft. Several strands of fence wire wrap around the 1-in. shaft and feed out through openings in the plastic housing. They're anchored to a length of metal tubing fitted with a pair of hooks that are pulled out across any opening as needed and hooked to a fence post, building, or whatever. The retractable fence extends out 45 ft. and can be electrified.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edwin Hardy, Kynsal Farm, Audlem, Cheshire, England.

Handy Wire Roller

There are other wire unrollers that roll out wire along the ground, but Robert Lloyd-Free's is the first 2-wheel wire unroller we've seen that has a built-in crank for rolling up wire from a standing position.

Reels of wire slip onto the axle between the two rubber-tired wheels and the wire rolls out along the ground as the cart is pulled backward. To reel in wire, the wire reel and wheels are jacked off the ground and a handle fitted with a small rubber wheel that runs against one of the big tires is turned to roll up wire.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Lloyd-Free, Charlton, Malmesbury, Wilts., England.

Bale Wrapper

If you can't justify the cost of a commercial big bale wrapping machine, you'll like this "low tech" bale wrapping idea developed by British farmer Clive Allard.

After forming a bale, he slips spikes into the center of each end of the bale, and then rolls the bale along the ground with lengths of chain that run from the spikes to the tractor drawbar. As the bale rolls along the ground, plastic is pulled off a roll held on a drop-down frame supported by ropes off the back of the tractor. One man drives the tractor and the other runs the wrapper. They leave the ends of the bales open.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clive Allard, Gillingham, Dorset, England.

Pickup-Powered Moisture Tester

To overcome the problem of erratic moisture readings when making haylage, Argentinean farmer Anthony Garcia built a pickup-powered moisture tester that uses exhaust heat to dry down hay samples. It mounts on the tailgate.

He measures 100 grams of hay into a metal dish (made from a hubcap). He then runs the pickup to heat the dish, which is designed to let exhaust moisture pass right on through. After 20 min., he measures moisture loss.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anthony Garcia, Buenos Aires, Argentina.