



Satellite dish is turned upside down over the bale and wired to four T-posts in ground.

## Round Bale Cover Made From TV Satellite Dish

Gerald Killough, Randolph, Miss., used an 11-ft. fiberglass satellite dish to make a cover for his round bales.

"I was having a problem with hay rotting before my goats could eat it. I needed something to cover them, but I didn't want to spend a lot of money," says Killough. "A tarp by itself wouldn't work because if I wrapped it so the wind couldn't blow it off, the goats couldn't eat. And if I left the tarp loose so

they could eat, the wind would blow it off."

Killough used a jigsaw to cut off the dish's outside lip, then turned the dish upside down over the bale. Then he drove four T-posts into the ground at the dish's seams and used wire ties to tie the dish to the posts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Killough, 29 Co. Rd. 188, Randolph, Miss. 38864 (ph 662 414-7031).



Home-built hitch lets Gleason trail his left and right hand basket rakes down the road.

## Hitch Makes Double Rakes Easy To Handle

Pull a pin and pull away is all Harold Gleason has to do to trail his left and right hand basket rakes down the road. No hydraulics, no unhooking and no hassle needed. When he gets to the next field, changing to field mode is just as easy.

"All I do is pull the pin keeping the rakes in trail mode, turn left or right and pull into the field," says Gleason. "Once it's back in field travel mode, I replace the pin and start raking."

Gleason and his son have used the rake hitch for at least 10 years. He says he has seen nothing like it on the market.

The simple hitch consists of a single wheel mounted on a dolly at one 4 by 4-in. leg of a 10-ft. long, 4 by 5-in. rectangular steel tube beam with a double wheel dolly at the other end. A rake is hooked to the bar at each dolly. In field mode, the beam runs perpendicular to the direction of travel, with the tow bar

mounted mid way on the beam and locked in place. A tie rod connects the tow bar to the twin wheeled dolly, causing those wheels and the hitch to follow when the tractor changes direction.

Unlocking the tow bar and driving ahead causes the rake hitch beam to pivot, pulling the single wheel dolly ahead. Its trailing rake pulls forward and under the 5 1/2 -ft. high beam. The twin wheel dolly and its rake pivot into line directly behind the first rake, with the double wheel dolly adding stability to the in-line rake hitch.

The single wheel came off an old Versatile swather, while the double wheel dolly is made from the rear wheels of an old MF 92 combine. "It probably cost \$500 or less with what I had laying around," says Gleason.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Gleason, 2843 Gleason Dr., Tolna, N. Dak. 58380 (ph 701 262-4584).

## Do-It-Yourself Mosquito Trap

A 5-gal. bucket and a fine mesh strainer can be used to make a simple mosquito trap that will greatly reduce your mosquito population, says John Boyd, Gibsonville, N.C.

He fills the bucket about three fourths full of water, then adds soft wheat or grass so the water will quickly become stagnant. "It doesn't take long before mosquitoes will lay eggs in the water, and you'll see the larvae start wriggling around," says Boyd.

It takes about five days for the larvae to grow about 1/4 in. long and become comma-shaped. That's when he places the strainer on top of the bucket and pours the water through the strainer and into an empty bucket. Then he dumps the larvae on dry ground where they die, starved of the water they need to hatch.

"It's cheap to set up and costs nothing to operate," says Boyd. "I drain the water every two weeks all summer long. I've been using this idea for 15 years and it really works. It works because mosquitoes need to lay their eggs in water. Give them what they want and you can wipe them out. A single mosquito can lay up to 3,000 eggs in a lifetime, so if you can wipe out just a few thousand you can really reduce the population. If

I get rid of 1,000 eggs at the beginning of the season, I'm wiping out a potential 3 million mosquitoes.

"If I put the buckets out early enough in the spring I'll get an immense number of larvae, but then it subsides throughout the summer. During the fall, I leave the buckets out as late as possible because that's when mosquitoes lay eggs for next year's crop."

Boyd says he bought the strainer at Bed & Bath & Beyond. "At first I tried using towels, but the larvae often formed lumps on the towel that kept the water from flowing through. I also tried using screens, but the holes were too big and let some larvae through. I fill the bucket with water close to the top of the bucket so I can watch the larvae wriggling around."

He uses two buckets on his 18-acre farm, which has a 1-acre yard, spacing the buckets about 50 ft. apart. "Mosquitoes don't fly very far from where they hatch," he says. "You want to get them as soon as they're 1/4 in. long because that's when they're ready to hatch."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Boyd, 3112 Huffine Mill Road, Gibsonville, N.C. 27249 (ph 336 621-6379).

## "Pilot Hole" Auger Makes Post Setting Easy, Solid

Gilbert Conn likes using 8 ft. long, 4 in. square, wood landscape timbers for fenceposts, but he doesn't like having to tamp them into a standard 9-in. post auger hole. However, drilling a hole with a 4-in. diameter auger is like drilling a pilot hole. The post can be pushed in tight with a loader and no tamping is needed.

"I was able to get some 4-in. augers that had been used to drill holes before dynamiting coal," says Conn. "I put an oil shank on them and a head that would work in my Ford 3-pt. post hole drill. It would work 10 times better if I had a hydraulic drive. Then I could reverse it."

Conn drills his pilot holes about 40 in. deep, sets the post in place, and with a few taps by a loader bucket, it's solid in the ground.

Driving the post in doesn't push much dirt in, given the size of the hole. "We've pulled a post out and checked," he says. "There isn't more than an inch and a half of loose dirt in the bottom."

Conn says his son can place 68 posts in half a day using the auger and a loader bucket weighted with half a load of dirt. Conn's son likes the posts for five-strand electric fences.

"It works really well," says Conn. "I've made four of them so far for neighbors and my son."

Conn says the posts slide out as easy as they go in. He then fills the hole with gravel. "It doesn't settle like dirt would, and I don't have to worry about an animal stepping in it



Gilbert Conn uses a 4-in. dia. auger to drill pilot holes for fence posts. Post can then be pushed in tight with a loader with no need for tamping.

and breaking a leg."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gilbert F. Conn, 1314 Old Meadow Rd., Pittsburgh, Penn. 15241 (ph 412 221-4999).

## Add-On Gauge Provides Real-Time Driving Data

Auto Meter Products says you can improve your driving efficiency and gas mileage with the help of the company's latest gauge - the Ecometer.

The add-on gauge offers instantaneous mpg, average mpg, tachometer, and speed. The Ecometer simply plugs into the OBD (On Board Diagnostic) port located under the driver's side dashboard.

"We developed it to help people save money. Even with modest fuel economy improvements, the Ecometer can pay for itself in a just few tanks of gas, and will help improve our environment by burning fuel more

efficiently," says Jeff King, Auto Meter President and CEO. "The Ecometer is easy to install and can be mounted anywhere in your vehicle. It has an innovative E-Z View™ dial face that can be rotated 350 degrees for proper viewing anywhere in your car."

The gauge offers real time color-coded information. Green is good and efficient driving. Yellow and red are inefficient.

"You can see instantly how making a change in your driving pattern makes an impact on your fuel economy," King says.

That can be especially helpful when towing with a truck, to see what gear and speed

are most fuel efficient for that specific vehicle and load.

The Ecometer received positive reviews at winter trade shows and was introduced to the market this spring. The product can be found at most automotive part chain stores for about \$70.

The Ecometer is made in Sycamore, Ill., and will work with more than 50 million vehicles on the road including all 2008 and newer, most 2006 and newer, and many 2004 and newer vehicles.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Auto Meter Products, 413 W. Elm St., Sycamore,



Add-on gauge offers instantaneous mpg, average mpg, tachometer, and speed. It plugs into the OBD port located under the driver's side dashboard.

Ill. 60178 (ph 866 248-6356; sales@autometer.com; www.autometer.com).