

Power Gates Save Labor Sorting Cattle

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

When Ken Stanley and Wayne Forbes of Jubilee Farms designed their sorting alley and processing shed, they included an innovative feature that saves everyone a lot of work.

The Westlock, Alta., feedlot operators set up a system of hydraulic gates that allows them to sort cattle while standing inside the processing shed, next to the hydraulic squeeze. As cattle are released from the squeeze and head out of the processing shed and down the sorting alley, the squeeze operator uses valves to open or close hydraulic gates on 4 different pens.

"It saves a huge amount of manpower," Stanley explains. "It provides 5 sorting options based on animal weight, sex or color."

Before building the shed and pens, the men laid down hydraulic lines under the floor before pouring the concrete.

Each 12-ft. gate has a 2 by 20-in. hydraulic cylinder mounted across the hinged corner. 1/2-in. rubber hydraulic lines run from the gate cylinders to the floor, where they T into sub-floor steel lines (1/2-in.), which run to a

control panel next to the squeeze chute. The control panel T's into the squeeze's hydraulic pump, which runs the entire system. The panel consists of one lever for each gate.

As an animal is released from the squeeze, the appropriate pen gate can be opened and closed again without the operator ever having to take a step.

"It's virtually unlimited how many gates you could include in a system like this," Forbes points out.

Although their below-floor system works great, Forbes says he's seen similar set-ups on farms and feedlots where they've run it above ground.

"It's certainly possible to retrofit a facility," Forbes points out.

The feedlot at Jubilee Farms has a 6,500-head capacity.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Stanley and Wayne Forbes, Jubilee Farms, Box 5510, Westlock, Alta., Canada T7P 2P5 (ph 780 349-2476; wayne@jubileefarms.ca.)



Squeeze chute operator uses valves to open or close hydraulic gates on 4 different pens. Each gate has a 2 by 20-in. hydraulic cylinder mounted at the corner.



Rooftop fire defense system comes with a sprinkler head on top, and a pair of sponge-type rollers on each side that grip the roof.

Rooftop Fire Defense System

If you live in an area threatened by grass or forest fires, you'll like this rooftop fire defense system that uses an ordinary garden hose to protect your home from the threat of flying embers. Best of all, you never have to climb onto the roof.

The Rooftop Fire Defense System (RTFDS) is made from specially treated pvc pipe that's fire and heat resistant and has a sprinkler head on top. There's a pair of sponge-type rollers on each side that grip the roof. It also comes with 4-ft. lengths of feeder pipe that run to the roof edge.

"The RTFDS isn't designed to put out a fire, but to prevent one from ever starting. It can be used on houses as well as barns, garages and so forth," says inventor Eric Olson. "It shoots 7.8 gal. of water per min.

through the connected pipes to keep the roof wet and put moisture in the air. It works on any roof style. One unit is required for a 2,000 sq. ft. home, and two units for a 4,000 sq. ft. home. The entire unit fills with water so wind won't blow it away.

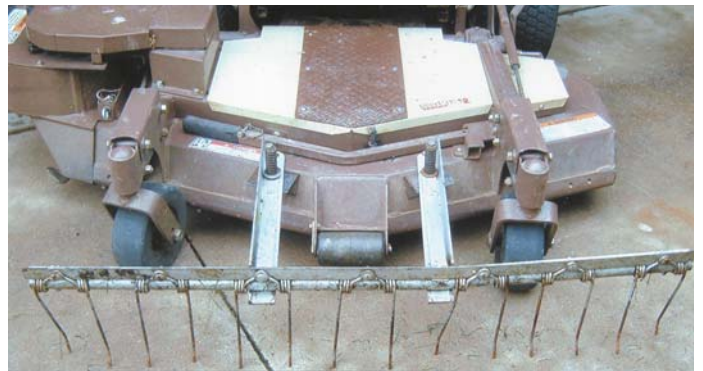
"It comes in bright yellow so any firemen in the area will be able to see that it's in operation on your roof. That way they can focus on the surrounding areas of your house."

"The whole unit, including the pipes, weighs just 11 lbs.," says Olson.

Sells for \$189.88 including S&H.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric R. Olson, P.O. Box 593256, Orlando, Fla. 32859 (ph 407 592-3242; info@rooftopfiredefense.com; www.rooftopfiredefense.com).



System comes with 4-ft. lengths of feeder pipe that connect together and run to the roof edge, where pipe hooks up to a garden hose.



Spring-toothed dethatcher mounts on a 5-ft. long pipe that attaches to an angle iron bracket on front of mower deck.

Riding Mower Fitted With Front-Mount Dethatcher

Marvin Johnson increased the usefulness of his Grasshopper riding mower by mounting a homemade dethatcher on front. He uses it whenever he mows.

The spring-toothed dethatcher mounts on a 5-ft. long pipe that attaches to an angle iron bracket on front of the mower deck. Johnson made the dethatcher by slipping a series of 8-in. long hay rake teeth over the pipe, and then bolting each set of tines to a length of 1 1/4-in. angle iron that's fastened to the top of the pipe. The 1 1/4-in. angle iron is bolted to a pair of 2-in. angle irons spaced 15 in. apart, which bolt onto flat metal brackets that bolt onto the deck.

He drilled a 7/16-in. dia. hole in each flat metal bracket and one 3/8-in. hole behind it in the deck itself, which accepts 2-in. long

bolts.

The 7/16-in. bolts in the flat metal brackets were fitted with a washer and a stiff valve spring, and then were pushed down through the angle irons and brackets. "The 7/16-in. bolts need to be about 4 1/2 in. long," says Johnson. "The teeth will rise and fall as the deck goes up and down."

A pair of metal braces run back from the top of the pipe to the 7/16-in. bolts to provide reinforcement.

"It works great. Usually I keep the rake teeth flush with the bottom of the mower's tires," says Johnson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Johnson, 319 N. Washington St., Lindsborg, Kan. 67456 (ph 785 227-2308).

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