

“No Clog” Easy-Clean Drop Nozzle Filters

The only thing better than an easy-to-clean drop nozzle filter is one that is almost impossible to clog. That’s what Gerald Beer, American Agriculture Products, came up with on his farm near Guymon, Okla.

“When I switched from flood irrigation to center pivots, I got an education in cleaning sprinkler nozzles,” says Beer. “It takes time to walk the length of a sprinkler to clean filters. If you don’t keep them clean, a drop nozzle can clog up, and before you know it, the crop is stressed or dying. It’s not a job I enjoy doing, so I started working on an alternative.”

What Beer came up with was a filter to fit between the hose and the regulator on drop nozzles. The hard plastic screen has 540 5/64-in. holes in it.

“The popular #9 Nelson nozzle orifice for drop tube nozzles is also 5/64-in.,” notes Beer. “You could plug up all but one hole in the filter and still have enough water flowing through to maintain your water pattern in the field.”

Beer estimates his filters will only need to be flushed clean once a year on most irrigation systems. Even in cases where water carries heavy loads of sand and sediment and more frequent flushing is needed, it’s easy to do.

“Just push up the small release valve



Filter fits between the hose and the regulator on center pivot drop nozzles (left). To flush out sediment you just push up a small release valve on side of filter.



on the side of the filter,” says Beer. “The water pressure will quickly flush out the sediment.”

Beer is confident his filter will last a lifetime. The UV protected plastic filters have been tested at pressures as high as 150 psi. Made in Dallas, Texas, the filter uses the same hard black plastic as is used for drop nozzle regulators.

“I have regulators that have been in place for 20 to 25 years,” says Beer. “I expect the filters to last at least as long.”

While regulators and hoses can suffer winter damage if left undrained, that’s not a problem when Beer’s filters are installed. An unexpected benefit of the release valve is its auto-drain feature.

“We didn’t know it when we designed

it, but when the water pressure shuts off, the valve releases on its own,” relates Beer. “The hose and filter drain out completely, and water is sucked back up out of the regulator.”

Beer’s American Agriculture Products is selling filters for \$20 each in boxes of 50. Currently he is selling them direct with a flat shipping rate of \$25 per box. Filters can be ordered by phone or via the company website.

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Reader Inquiry No. 63

He Catches Wild Hogs With Neck Snares

If you have wild hog problems, check out Newt Sterling and his wild hog snares. They are Texas wild boar tough and Texas wild boar tested. Sterling is convinced snares are a low cost, effective way to catch wild boar.

They are so effective that he warns prospective users of the danger they pose. “Study your trail, and know what animals are likely to come down it,” says Sterling. “If you set one of my snares the right way, you will catch the first animal down the trail, and you will probably kill it.”

Sterling offers a video called “Master Wild Hog Snaring”. It isn’t a fancy production piece, and at 2 hrs., 49 min., the three DVD set likely has more information than most beginners need. However, it’s well labeled and easy to jump to sections of interest, such as bait stations or a particular type of snare. It’s filled with bits of knowledge Sterling has gathered in a lifetime on the trapline.

“I’ve used a neck snare to catch everything from lynx to bear,” he says. “You need to practice little things like stepping over the snare and continuing on

down the trail a ways and then coming back and stepping over it again. If an animal is following your scent, and you step around the snare, it will too.”

What really sets his video apart from other how-to videos is the repetition of specific steps carried out in the field. When conditions aren’t perfect, he shows how to adapt.

“A cable snare by itself will do a good job, but a big pig can break it,” he says.

Given the size and attitude a wild pig can reach, Sterling takes his snares to stronger and more durable levels. He begins to incorporate shock springs, swivels and other devices, reviewing different weight ratings.

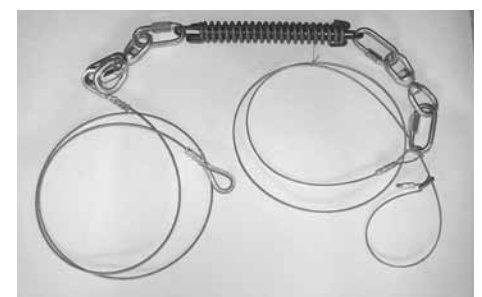
In addition to neck snares, he covers a wide variety of foot traps and foot snares he has adapted for wild boar.

The video is priced at \$39.95. His snares vary depending on components and relative sizes. However at \$20, the Ultimate Wild Hog Snare with its 500-lb. shock spring, swivels, quick links and 3/32-in. steel cables would appear to be a very good deal.

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Some of his snares come with shock springs, swivels and other devices. Wild hog snares are a low cost, effective way to catch wild boars, says Newt Sterling.



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