

Do-It-Yourself Concrete Cattle Guard

If you need a heavy-duty cattle guard, take a look at this new poly cattle guard form that's designed to be filled with concrete and left in the ground.

"It sells for 50 percent less than most steel cattle guards and is easy to handle for installation," says Danny Fox, Cattle Guard Forms, Ocala, Fla. "You just drop the form into a pre-dug hole, pour in concrete, and let it cure."

The leave-in-the-ground form is made from poly vinyl and measures 6 by 8 ft. in size and is 12 in. deep. It weighs 150 lbs.

There are 9 beams with rectangular holes across the top. Concrete is poured into the holes, filling the beams, which are 3 1/2 in. wide at the top and 5 in. wide at the bottom. Each beam comes pre-installed with 5/8-in. dia. fiberglass reinforcing rods.

There are 5-in. wide gaps between the beams where no concrete is poured.

Pre-formed blocks of Styrofoam fill each of the openings between beams to keep concrete out during the pour. Just over a cubic yard of concrete is poured over the entire surface of the form. The operator simply rakes excess concrete off the Styrofoam and into the holes in the beams. As concrete falls into the holes, it naturally flows into the rest of the interconnected beams until all the beams are full. "It takes about a half hour to fill and finish," says Fox.

Once the concrete has cured, the Styrofoam pieces can be thrown away.

"We wanted to make the process easy, the price economical, and the product extra heavy duty," says Fox. "As far as I know we're the only company that makes a poly concrete

form, and it has a lot of advantages. With a conventional steel cattle guard you have to dig a footing, pour concrete into it, and then set the steel guard on top of the concrete. That adds a lot to the cost. You'll typically pay \$2,000 to \$5,000 plus \$500 shipping for a steel cattle guard, and many of them have no engineered seal to certify the load rating. Compared to steel, concrete cattle guards are stronger and last longer.

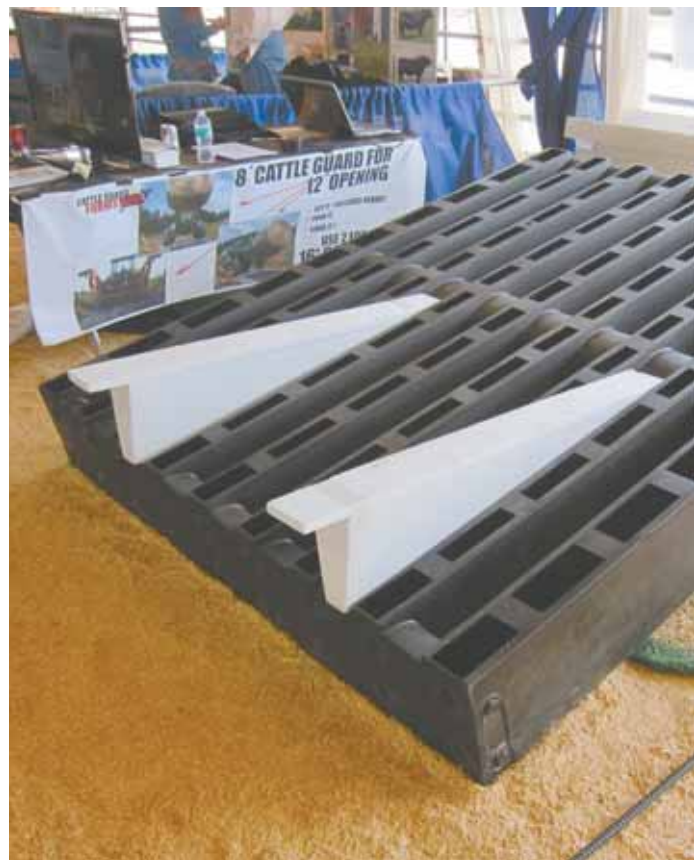
"You can buy pre-cast concrete cattle guards but they're extremely heavy which makes them super expensive to ship, and because of the weight it takes a huge forklift to handle them. Our cattle guard form is designed so that 2 men can pick it up. Also, unlike pre-cast concrete cattle guards our form has pre-installed fiberglass rebar which doesn't rust and has a much higher tensile strength compared to steel."

The cattle guard form is engineer certified to deliver an HS-20 load rating, allowing semis, trucks and tractors with loads up to 32,000 lbs. per axle to safely drive over it. "It'll take a terrific amount of weight," says Fox.

The cattle guard can be purchased with adjustable side wings, allowing one 8 by 6-ft. cattle guard to fit gate openings 8 to 12 ft. wide. You can set 2 guards side-by-side for 16 to 20-ft. gate openings.

The cattle guard sells for \$875 including S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CattleGuardForms, 1805 S.E. 16th Ave., Ocala, Fla. 34471 (ph 888 649-9996; cattleguardforms@gmail.com; www.cattleguardforms.com).



Poly cattle guard form is designed to be filled with concrete and left in the ground. Photo shows some of the pre-formed blocks of Styrofoam that are dropped into each of the openings between beams to keep concrete out during the pour.

Hay Feeder Grows With Your Herd

"Our new EZ Load hay feeder is made up of modules that bolt together, allowing you to add sections as your herd grows. It saves feed, time and money," says Jeff Hess, Progressive Products, Pittsburg, Kan.

Each module measures 12 ft. long and holds two 5 or 6-ft. round bales or three 4-ft. bales. Bales are loaded with a loader tractor or skid loader onto a central rail that's elevated off the ground to keep hay dry.

Each feeder section has 12 feed openings and a tapered top that's designed to keep hay in the feeder.

"Loading bales is like pushing donuts down a chute," says Hess. "You simply slide the

bales into the feeder as far as you can and then repeat the process. You can load all the hay from one end. Also, there's far less waste than with a conventional hay ring."

A single feeder section sells for \$1,200 plus S&H. An optional front swing gate and optional endgate sell for \$350 each plus S&H. A creep feeder is also available for \$350 plus S&H.

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EZ Load hay feeder is made up of modules that bolt together. Bales are loaded onto a central rail that's elevated off the ground to keep hay dry.

Electric-Powered Garden Tractor

By Bill Gergen, Senior Editor

I was walking down the aisles at the recent Sunbelt Ag Expo near Moultrie, Ga., when I spotted a crowd surrounding a locally-manufactured electric-powered garden tractor equipped with a front-end loader. It's called the Yard Machine, and it's designed to handle a wide variety of chores.

Three 12-volt batteries power the rear-steered tractor. A fourth 12-volt battery supplies an auxiliary power outlet on back that can be used to operate power tools. The tractor comes with a front-mount 3-pt. hitch that can be used to operate a 42-in. mower deck fitted with an electric motor, a rake, or a scraper blade. A snowblower and posthole digger are in development.

The front-end loader, equipped with a 42-in. bucket, is optional. It has a lift capacity of 200 lbs. and will lift up to 72 in. high, with a dump clearance of 48 in. Two electric-operated actuator cylinders are used to raise and lower the loader, one to operate the 3-pt. hitch, and one to tilt the loader bucket.

"It's a versatile tractor that works great for lightweight loader work, cutting grass, scraping, digging, and mowing. It's nice to

operate because it's quiet and there are no gas fumes," says Calvin Bowie, Tri Tech Equipment, Selma, Ala. "It takes 8 hrs. to charge the battery, and you can mow up to 3/4 of an acre of grass or do up to 3 hrs. of chore work, before recharging, which costs just 47 cents."

According to Bowie, the auxiliary power outlet on back works great for operating 120-volt power tools such as impact wrenches, drills, power saws, and hedge trimmers.

The company says it plans to begin selling both electric and gas-powered versions of the tractor in mid 2013. "The gas-powered unit is built heavier and intended for commercial uses such as landscaping, cleaning horse stalls and chicken houses, and light construction work," notes Bowie.

The basic electric Yard Machine is expected to sell for \$6,200; the loader for \$2,200; the mower for \$1,400; the rake for \$260, and the scraper blade for \$125.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tri Tech Equipment, 112 Hwy. 80 E., Selma, Ala. 36701 (ph 334 872-1650; tigerinnovations@yahoo.com).



Electric-powered garden tractor can be equipped with a loader. Front-mount 3-pt. hitch can be used to support a 42-in. mower deck fitted with an electric motor.

