

Wood Fences Built To Stop Washouts

By Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor

I got tired of fixing soil berms at the bottom of waterways that washed out after heavy rains on our farm near Kenyon, Minn. My neighbor and I had originally built the berms about 3 ft. high behind the tile standpipes, but swirling water eroded the berms leaving big washouts to be repaired almost every year. Hopefully I solved the problem in 2014 on two of the berms by erecting 6-ft. tall wood fences behind the standpipes and in front of the soil berms. One fence is 130 ft. long, with 8-in. posts spaced 10 ft. on center.

We attached 2 by 8-in. tongue and groove treated pine boards with galvanized deck screws. The longer fence is placed on the center of the property line and the standpipe is about a foot inside the fence on our neighbor's land. It's built to hold water up to 5 ft. deep, which allows at least an hour to drain into the 6-in. tile line.

We also built a 30-ft. fence on another field to prevent water from running into an old culvert basin. The water seemed to find its way through that area every few years even

though we packed dirt in real well when the culvert was removed and planted deep-rooted grass. Hopefully this fixes it permanently. The shorter fence has soil packed level to the top of the wood, about 2 ft. above the stand pipe. The longer fence has soil packed half way up the wall. The 130-ft. long fence is 6 ft. high in the center, trailing to 3 ft. high at the edges. The 4-ft. tall inlet standpipe that feeds directly into the tile line is about a foot inside the fence.

I used the long fence on this field because my neighbor didn't want a large berm extending into the field creating a big bend in his rows. Soil around both basins was seeded to deep rooting grasses and wildflowers and will be sprayed to kill noxious weeds. Other farmers in the area have used corrugated steel from old grain bins to line catch basins or pack the downside of the basins with large rocks to prevent erosion. Tile contractors say if you're building a wood fence it's a good idea to leave a small opening about 8 in. high and a foot wide near the top of the fence and 20 ft. from each end to allow overflow.

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To keep heavy rains from washing out his field waterways, Lorn Manthey installed 6-ft. high wooden fences behind his tile standpipes and in front of soil berms.



Fences are designed to hold water until it drains into standpipes. Fence shown above is 130 ft. long, with 8-in. posts spaced 10 ft. on center.

Vol. 39, No. 1, 2015

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FARM SHOW (ISSN #01634518) is published 7 times per year (bimonthly plus one special "Best of FARM SHOW" issue published in December) for \$25.95 per year (\$29.95 in Canada) by Farm Show Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 1029, 20088 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, Minn. 55044. Periodicals postage paid at Lakeville, Minn., and Madelia, Minn. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 469-5572; fax 952 469-5575; email: circulation@farmshow.com; website: www.farmshow.com). Single copy price is \$5.95 (\$7.50 in Canada). Publication No. 469490.

In Canada:

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40032660, Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To: Dycom Mail Svcs, 495 Berry St., Winnipeg, MB R3J 1N6; Email: circulation@farmshow.com

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Jan.-Feb., 2015

Shop Wizard Builds "FARM SHOW Projects"

"When I'm not repairing things for other people, I'm building useful stuff of my own from ideas I've seen in FARM SHOW," says Richard Hayward, a self-employed welder and repairman from Salem, N.Y. "My father-in-law gave me a subscription 10 years ago and I've still got every issue right here. Those magazines and my recliner are the two most important things in my shop."

Hayward says his first "copy cat" project was modifying a push lawn mower to cut brush between rows of Christmas trees. The family calls it "The Beast" and they still use it. Over the years he's also built a tree shear, stump grinder, wood wagon, skid steer "thumb", wood splitter, snow plow, wood chipper and learned several short cuts that are helpful in his work. "The home-built projects have really saved me time and money," says Hayward.

His self-unloading wood hauler is made from an old manure spreader, an idea that he first read about nearly 10 years ago in the magazine. "Building the buggy was easy because I removed the spreader beater, replaced it with a door and just came up with a sprocket that would spool the chain on the back as it unloaded the wood," says Hayward.

For his homemade stump grinder Hayward used ideas from 2 different stories in FARM SHOW. "I called a guy in Texas who made a hydraulic-powered grinder and asked him some questions. Another guy I visited with had carbides called green teeth that were 1 1/8 in. wide, so I used those on my machine. I started with an old bush hog, used the gearbox, and put in a 5/8-in. plate for a blade on a 30-in. drum. I used the green teeth for the outside edge and it works real well. The whole deal probably cost less than \$500."

Hayward made what he calls a chipper/chopper from a 50-year-old New Holland 717 forage chopper. "The original machine had 9 blades - I removed 3," says Hayward. "I shortened up the spout and moved the control lever for the spout from the end of the hitch to the side of the machine. That way I can reach the controls as I'm feeding in brush. I run the machine with a 1958 Ford 861 Powermaster diesel and it barely makes the engine work. I can cut up branches and brush up to 3 in. dia. and the chips are very uniform. I've got probably \$500 into the rig total. A new one



Turning a New Holland forage chopper into a brush chipper is just one of many projects Richard Hayward took on since becoming a subscriber.

would've cost close to \$2,000."

Hayward has also used ideas from FARM SHOW stories to build a tree shear and a wood splitter for his skid steer. The shear uses a hydraulic cylinder to operate 18-in. farm disks. The splitter is tough enough to

break apart chunks of wood up to 4 ft. in dia. "I use it on elm and maple and never have a problem," says Hayward.

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Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

FARM SHOW

"Made It Myself"