



Drop trap is shown here ready to trigger, as seen from a computer monitor or cell phone.



When the operator triggers the corral via cell phone or remote control, the outside ring falls to the ground.

“Drop Trap” Catches Entire Wild Hog Herds

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation has a new way to control wild hogs. The BoarBuster corral sets above eye level, allowing hogs to come and go without fear until an operator triggers the unit remotely.

“With conventional traps, non-target animals can’t get out and hogs often won’t come in,” explains Josh Gaskamp, Noble Foundation. “If a group of wild hogs gets trapped, the ones who aren’t caught get educated to stay away in the future.”

The Oklahoma-based agricultural research foundation is a leader in innovative farm and ranch management as well as wildlife techniques. One research team had been using remote-released overhead drop nets to capture deer for research. They tried the same technique on hogs. It worked.

“We were able to capture up to 86 percent of hogs in an area with drop nets versus 49 percent with standard corral traps,” says Gaskamp. “That was enough to control the population, and it didn’t educate the ones who weren’t caught. You need to eliminate approximately 70 percent just to keep up with annual reproduction.”

One reason for the effectiveness was that hogs don’t have predators overhead so they don’t look up.

They developed a double ring corral that could be assembled from sections on site in as little as 30 min. When set up, both rings are above hog height. Hogs can enter and leave in all directions.

The foundation worked with Tactical Electronics, Tulsa, Okla., to develop a cell

phone and internet based video camera view and trigger system.

After baiting, a remote operator can watch the site anywhere internet service is available. When the majority, if not all, of a group of hogs is inside the corral area, the operator triggers the corral, and the outside ring falls to the ground in a rotating motion. The inner ring remains elevated to prevent the hogs from jumping out.

“I once triggered the BoarBuster while watching a baseball game in Oregon,” recalls Gaskamp.

Unlike static traps, non-target animals are not caught. Capture rates of hogs were even better than with overhead nets. Gaskamp reports catching 44 hogs at one time.

“The Boar Buster captures 88 percent of

feral hogs in an area,” says Gaskamp.

The Noble Foundation has worked with W-W Livestock Systems to bring the BoarBuster to market. First units are expected to be available June 1, 2015. Units are priced at \$5,995 for the trap and camera. Cellular service varies.

You can see a video of the BoarBuster in action at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, W-W Manufacturing, 8832 Highway 54, Thomas, Okla. 73669 (ph 800 999-1214; boarbuster@pldi.net; www.wmanufacturing.com) or The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, Okla. 73401 (ph 580 223-5810; www.boarbuster.com).



Hydraulic-powered Marshall Picker tosses rocks into a cargo box with a 12-volt hydraulic-powered reel.

ATV Rock Picker Works Fast

Drive onto a field with a Marshall Picker behind your ATV, and you may never pick rocks by hand again. The hydraulic-powered picker tosses them into the rock box without the operator ever leaving his seat.

“It can handle up to a 70-lb. rock, about the size of a basketball,” says Doug Anderson, Marshall Machine Shop. “I have a 430cc ATV and pick partial loads with it. Even partial loads can be dumped at the field edge quickly, and I’m back in the field.”

Larger ATV’s can haul a full load up to 1,700 lbs. at a time, depending on soil conditions. To pick up rocks, the operator drives up to the rock, lowering the rake and the reel. The 2 sets of revolving (and reversible) teeth on the reel are powered by a 12-volt hydraulic drive. The drive also raises and lowers the rake. It in turn is powered by a deep cycle battery that comes with the unit.

Revolving teeth on the reel sweep smaller rocks onto the rake and up into the box. For larger rocks, the operator raises the rake and the reel until the teeth can push it off and into the rock box.

The powder-coated Marshall Picker weighs 680 lbs. empty. The 10-gauge steel rock box has a mesh floor, allowing dirt and trash to fall back onto the field.

The manually controlled hitch on the 3- by 3-ft. trailer swings out from transit position to straddle 15, 22 or 30-in. rows.

“When the box is full, just pull to the edge of the field, and the hydraulic lift dumps the box,” says Anderson.

Marshall Machine Shop is a full-service fabricating, machining, welding and repair shop. The Marshall Picker is priced at \$5,500 and can be ordered direct. Anderson suggests calling for the names of distributors in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota.

You can see a video of the Marshall Rock Picker in action at www.farmshow.com.
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marshall Machine Shop, 1005 Channel Pkwy., Marshall, Minn. 56258 (ph 507 532-3613; toll free 866 262-4418; info@marshallmachineshop.com; www.marshallmachineshop.com).



Gerald Milo and his son built unique cog-type closing wheels for their no-till drill that improves seed stands.

Home-Built Closing Wheels Improve Seed Stands

After spending 5 years perfecting a special vertical tillage implement for their Ohio farms, Gerald Milo and his son decided they could also improve the closing wheels on their no-till drill. They’d looked at several aftermarket products and thought their idea was just as good if not better, and would definitely cost less than buying.

Using emergence and final stand counts following spring tillage they developed a different type of closing wheel. “One day I pulled in the shed with the drill after planting 20 acres and said to myself ‘there’s no way I’m going in the field again using this press wheel,’” says Milo. The father/son duo designed a new cogged type press wheel with 1-in. fingers. They tested the wheel and were impressed with the results.

“The cog wheel design makes alternating firm and soft depressions behind the seed

tube so the young seedlings can pop through the surface and still have a firm seedbed to support strong roots,” Milo says. “The cast iron wheels also act as a depth gauge for the seed tube, so there’s uniform seed placement.”

Milo says in their on-farm experience the cog wheels increase emergence rates for soybeans and small grains. “Emergence is the key to a good stand, and for \$50 a wheel, it seems to be a good investment,” he says. Milo and his son manufacture the Mix and Till VT implement and the cog closing wheels at their farm.

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