Square entrance to trap goes under building. Round pipe is used to gas trapped skunks.

TRAPS AS MANY AS 9 ANIMALS AT ONCE

Catch Skunks Live In Do-It-Yourself Trap

"Works great around farmsteads with heavy skunk infestations," say officials of Alberta Agriculture about a new live skunk trap that they've developed to help control growing skunk populations.

Phil Merrill, field agent, says the trap is ideal because it'll catch as many as 9 skunks at once. He says it works best around "infested" farm buildings where it's possible to have dens of as many as 20 skunks under one building.

The 24 by 12 by 36-in. skunk trap is formed from 1 by 1-1/16-in. wire mesh with reinforcing rods used to stiffen corners. A square runway protrudes from one end and is inserted into the exit hole under the building. The runway is fitted with two one-way gates inside it that keep the skunk inside once it passes through. Bait consisting of fish, fowl or raw red meat is placed in a bait box inside the main chamber of the cage. However, Merrill says trapped skunks attract other skunks.

Once skunks are inside the cage, you simply cover the cage with a heavy tarp, and gas the skunks with engine exhaust through a pipe that extends from the outside edge of the cage. Merrill says that if handled correctly, skunks will not emit their scent because they will never realize their lives are threatened.

For free copies of the skunk trap plans, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jensen Skunk Trap, Alberta Agriculture, Box 670, Cardston, Alberta, TOK OKO Canada. (ph 403 653-4461).

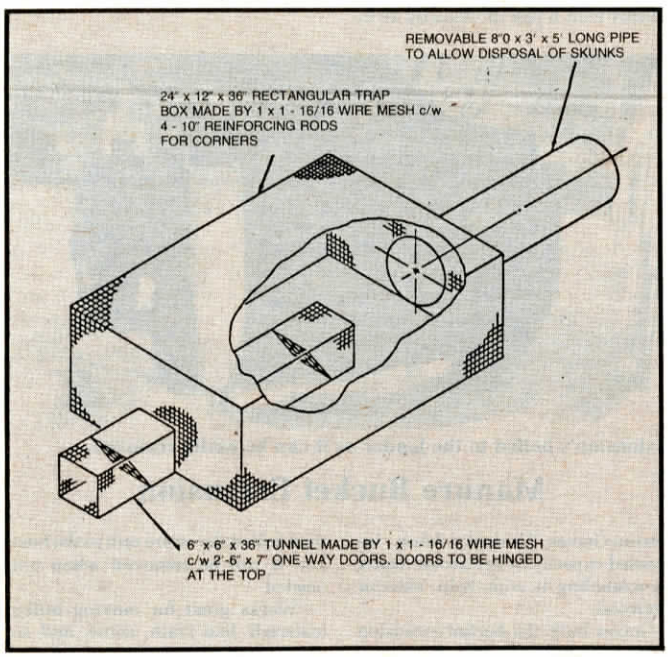

Photo courtesy St. Joseph News-Press Gazette

Top-cutting mower, for which Boydston recently received a patent, is driven by a hydraulic motor at one end.

FRONT-END MOWER CUTS TALL-GROWING WEEDS AND "VOLUNTEER" CROPS

Top-Cutting Mower Replaces "Weed Wipers"

"It eliminates the high cost of chemicals and does nearly as good a job," says Howard Boydston, Dearborn, Mo., who developed and patented a top-cutting mower to cut down tall-growing weeds and volunteer corn in soybean and millet crops.

The sickle-bar mower mounts on a tractor front-end and adjusts to cut at heights from 1 to 6 ft. off the ground, taking a 15 ft. swath. Boydston used a sickle bar and wobble box from a 510 Massey Ferguson combine, powered by a 6-hp. hydraulic motor which belt-drives the wobble box. The mower frame bolts to the tractor front end and raises and lowers hydraulically from the tractor seat.

Boydston says it took him 2 years to come up with a design that works. "I built the first prototypes out of wood. Once I finally got the design right it took another 2½ years to get a patent," he says, noting that he's still trying to find a manufacturer to produce the mower.

Boydston says he thinks you can get nearly the same benefit cutting off tall-growing weeds as killing them with chemical such as Roundup. He also thinks restrictions on the use of chemicals may increase in the near future.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Boydston, Rt. 2, Box 43H, Dearborn, Mo. 64439 (ph 816 227-3705).

ITS 4 WIRES RETRACT INTO SPRING-LOADED CONTAINER

Electric Roller Gate

You'll like this electric "roller gate", designed for all types of livestock, that opens and closes like retractable, spring-loaded clothes line.

To open, you simply unhook the insulated handle and walk it and the attached four wires back to the spring-loaded "winder upper" container. The wires automatically wind up on their own separate spool and can't get tangled. To close, you simply walk the handle back to the latch post.

If used in a standard, non-electric fenceline, the gate can be electrified with its own controller which operates on flashlight batteries.

Extends up to 18 ft. and weighs only 18 lbs. Sells for $66. Optional controller to electrify it sells for $75.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Max-Flex Fence Systems, U.S. Rt. 219, Lindside, W. Va., 24951 (ph 304 753-4387).

Gate wires retract automatically into gatepost container.