

“Catcher” Makes Calf Work Easier

If you own an ATV or UTV and have cattle, Dan Leo has an attachment to make working with young calves safer and easier.

“Safety is the number one goal of our durably built and user-friendly catchers,” says Leo, president of Safety Zone Calf Catchers. “The traditional way to tag and process calves can be dangerous and often takes more than one person to do the job. With our calf catcher it’s easier on the producer, the cow and the calf. One person, who can operate an ATV or UTV, can safely work calves.”

The calf catcher is all-welded, durably constructed steel cage that mounts with ball hitches on the front and back. It works well in all types of terrains and conditions. With the front gate locked open, the driver approaches the calf and captures it in the cage by shutting the spring-loaded gate. The producer enters the pen through the open side by stepping from the ATV or UTV and moves the calf to the rear holding area where he can tag, vaccinate, weigh and even band the babies while protected from the mother cow. When finished the producer releases the calf out the back to its mother.

“Traditionally, producers have to get to the calves early after birth otherwise it can be difficult to catch and even hang on to them, and then it can require two or more people depending on the protective behavior of the mother cow while the processing takes place,” Leo notes. “With our calf catcher unit, one person can catch calves, even if they are a week or older when they have plenty of run in them. Another benefit is the calf holder located at the back of the catcher. It not only secures the calf for processing, but works very well for pairing out, as the cow can see and smell her baby and will then easily follow to another pasture or calving barn in inclement weather. Cows will follow the calf virtually anywhere!”

The ATV catchers sell for \$2,095 plus freight shipping. Catchers designed for UTVs are an additional \$450. Other options include - a waterproof, digital scale, especially useful to seedstock producers – and a rear tow hitch to accommodate long distance travel. The company sells directly to cattlemen but welcomes dealership inquiries.

“Built in both Nebraska and South Da-



One person can now more safely and easily process new calves with the ATV/UTV Catcher.



kota plants, the calf catcher will last for generations, Sales have stretched across the U.S. with exports to Canada, Australia and France.” Leo adds.

To see it in action, check out the video on the company’s website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Safety Zone Calf Catchers, LLC, 1146 7th Ave, Dannebrog, Neb. 68831 (ph 877 505-0914; www.safetyzonecalfcatchers.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 27

Tree Trays Cut Costs, Speed Growth

Tray-Tech plant trays can speed growth of young trees by 20 to 30 percent. Hillel Goren, Goren Trade Inc., says the plastic trays can also cut irrigation costs by 50 percent and reduce fertilizer needs as well.

“The main benefit is growth acceleration,” says Goren. “They surround the young trunk to catch moisture and create greenhouse conditions for the root system. The tray covers the ground, seals it from all sides, and protects the roots from extreme temperatures.”

The Tray-Tech plant trays were developed in Israel, birthplace of many of the water-saving technologies used in agriculture around the world.

“Christmas tree growers really benefit from the trays,” says Goren, North American distributor for Tray-Tech. “They can cut the normal 7 to 10-year time it takes to grow a Christmas tree by at least 2 to 3 years.”

Goren says the trays can also reduce loss of young seedlings. He points to use of the trays on small pine trees planted in an arid mountainous area in Israel. Seedling loss went from 36 percent to zero.

The 2 by 2 1/2-ft. plastic trays fit around the seedling stem. Edges seal tight to the ground shading out competitive grass and weed growth. The slope of the tray directs rainfall, irrigation water and even dew directly to the stem base and developing roots.

The same slope on the underside gathers condensation and carries it to the stem.

Goren says the insulating effect of the plastic tray reduces plant shut down from heat and extends the growing season in cold areas. It also reduces potential for mid-winter thaw and refreeze damage.

Reflection of light from the trays back to the seedling is another reason for accelerated growth. It supports increased photosynthesis.

While the tray was developed for use in arid areas, Goren suggests that the water concentrating effect of its shape is beneficial in higher rainfall areas as well. “You don’t have the savings from reduced irrigation, but growth acceleration is maintained as more nutrients are available. With fruit trees, you get higher quality fruit,” he says.

Currently the trays sell for \$4 to \$5 each, depending on quantity ordered. Goren says the trays have a life expectancy of at least 10 years, but could last 15 to 20 if not abused.

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Reader Inquiry No. 28



Tray-Tech plant tray surrounds young tree trunk to catch moisture and protect the root system from extreme temperatures.

