David Linnemeier converted an old garage door opener into a powered gate opener. A 4 by 8-ft. roof protects it from the weather.

Pushing the button on the remote control opener engages the jackshaft to slide gate open or shut.

Garage Door Opener Slides Big Gate Open

David Linnemeier modified a garage door opener to slide a gate sideways on his Fort Wayne, Ind., property. It opens and closes at the push of a button on a remote control.

"Years ago we lost a couple of dogs that were hit by cars, so I wanted to make sure the animals stayed at home," Linnemeier says. He fenced in his acre of property but didn't want the hassle of opening and closing a gate every time he used the driveway.

When his son replaced an old 1960's garage door opener, Linnemeier repurposed it for a gate opener. He built a 4 by 8-ft. roof to cover and protect the opener and rollers from the weather. The roof is hinged so it can be raised up for roller and opener maintenance. He pieced livestock fencing panels to build a 24-ft. long gate.

Pushing the button on the remote control opener engages the jackshaft to slide the gate open or shut. The gate opens about 16 ft.

"The only maintenance has been a little oil and grease for the bearings and chain," Linnemeier says, noting he only had about $300 in the original setup. It worked well until last summer when he replaced the door opener control with a new one for about $100. The new opener is more enclosed and shouldn't have problems with squirrels getting in and chewing wires like they did with the old garage door opener.

The automatic gate has worked well through the years, and there has never been too much snow to create problems in the winter. However, Linnemeier notes that he often opens the gate when severe storms are predicted. That way, if the electricity goes off, he doesn't have to get out the generator to open his gate.

"It's been a good piece of equipment," Linnemeier says. "It's so simple, and I've had absolutely no trouble with it. Any farmer can copy it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Linnemeier, 12849 S. Lonoke Dr., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46818 (ph 260 402-6640).

Linnemeier pieced livestock fencing panels together to build the 24-ft. long gate.

Flex Hose Used To Replace Well Pipe

WellHose DIY Drop Pipe from Hose Solutions makes submersible installation and maintenance easy. Just attach a pump to the end of the hose and lower it into the well by hand or with a powered spooler.

"WellHose is a heavy-duty hose used by water utilities and for dewatering in mines," explains Nicolas Steverlynck, Hose Solutions. "The upfront cost is higher than with well pipe, but it takes less energy to pump, has less head loss and because it is flexible, it is self cleaning. There is no scale buildup or corrosion."

Steverlynck explains that the energy savings and reduced head loss is due to the smooth fabric in the hose. He adds that the hose doesn't break down, comes with a 50-year warranty, and can be used with water temperatures ranging from 40 degrees to 110 degrees.

"We actually expect it to last 100 years as it doesn't break down or corrode," says Steverlynck. "When the pump is off, the hose hangs flat. When it is on and pressure builds, it acts like a rigid system."

The ease of installation with the WellHose DIY Drop Pipe lends itself to other cost savings. Steverlynck describes the ability to load a hose and pump in the back of a truck and take it to a remote well.

"Drop it in and leave it for a few days while it fills a stock tank, then pull it and drive to the next well," says Steverlynck. "You can use a diesel generator or solar to drive the pump. We have a spooler for installation and a roller that can go around the well for dropping the hose in."

WellHose Drop Pipe is available in a variety of sizes from 1 to 4 in. in diameter. A 1-in. hose can be used to reach a depth of 300 ft., while a 4-in. hose is restricted to 150 ft. The restriction is based on the ability of a do-it-yourselfer to do it himself, not the strength of the hose, stresses Steverlynck.

"Add the weight of the hose, the pump and the water in the hose and it won't reach 10 percent of the tensile strength of the hose," he says. "It is a fiberglass reinforced nylon with 28 years of proven experience."

To install WellHose DIY Drop Pipe, you just attach a pump to end of hose and lower it into well. Hose's smooth fabric results in energy savings and less head loss.

The hose comes with male NPT thread fittings. It is also available "plug and play" with a submersible pump and power cable pre-attached.

A 300-ft. length of 1-in. WellHose with fittings is priced at $768. A 150-ft. length of 4-in. WellHose and fittings is priced at $2,094.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hose Solutions, Inc., 9419 E. San Salvador Dr., Scottsdale, Arizona 85258 (ph 480 607-1507; sales@hosesolutions.com; www.wellhose.com).

Emergency Pump Provides Water Security

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Kurt Blomback, an electrician who lives in rural Belgrade, Mont., learned the hard way about the importance of water security when his well pump failed. The experience prompted him to start Apocalypse Well Pumps.

"I designed an emergency pump with a very simple design, which means low cost, high reliability, and they are very easy to install," Blomback explains.

The pumps can be installed ahead of time and left in the well. Because of their unique way of using just water to seal the piston, there are no O-rings or leathers in the AK-style pumps (which can reach down to 50 ft.).

The foot valve is simple – a stainless steel ball – making the pump maintenance-free and ready to use when needed. The pump drains rapidly via a weep hole that is 5 ft. down, so it is freeze-proof (tested at -35F). The pump, drop pipe and pump rods are made from UV-stabilized pvc or stainless steel.

"We made a very narrow, long pump so it fits with pitless adapters (in 6-in. wells). That makes installation easy," Blomback says. The emergency pump also fits in 4-in. wells without pitless adapters and 2-in. sandpoint wells.

Prices for kits that come with pipes in 5-ft. sections start at $195 for 10 ft. and go to $385 for 50 ft. of pipe. Blomback notes that the system works in wells drilled deeper than that if the (static) water level in the well is 50 ft. or less.

For deeper wells, Blomback designed the AR pump that goes to 125 ft. for $325. Because of the cost of shipping, he doesn't include the 10-ft. lengths of 3/4-in. schedule 40 pvc pipe required to go down into the well.

"Because of the depth, the system uses a smaller 1-in. dia. piston and a synthetic rubber cup seal that needs replacing whenever the electric pump is replaced (5-10 years)," Blomback says.

Apocalypse Well Pump has a simple design that results in low cost and high reliability, says inventor Kurt Blomback.

Pump can be installed ahead of time and left in the well.

Several videos at his website explain how to install the system and the additional items needed to purchase locally (concrete, steel pipe, etc.).

Customers have included people from a broad spectrum including ranchers who need to water livestock in a remote area with a well.

"We can pull 5 gal./minute at 25 ft.," Blomback says, noting it slows down as the well gets deeper. "But for an emergency pump you want reliability. With the AK pump you don't have to worry about rotted leathers or bad O-rings."

With the pump and a Saturday afternoon installing it, Blomback says water security is possible for an economical investment that buys peace of mind.

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