

Deer Sounds Scare Deer Away

Deer Shield uses natural deer noises to keep deer away from vineyards, orchards and other sensitive areas. The idea isn't new. Bird Gard, the company that developed it, has been using natural sounds to keep birds away for 30 years.

"We knew that bioacoustics or natural sounds were incredibly effective against birds," says Rick Willis, Bird Gard. "However, it took us about 10 years to come up with sounds that were effective with deer. We took the system to university researchers for evaluation and then tried it in vineyards, orchards and other agricultural settings. Everyone said it worked really well."

The company used what they had learned with birds to set up the system to deliver random sounds. Deer Shield uses the aggressive and hostile sounds of rutting, territorial warning sounds and the blow sound a deer makes when clearing the nostrils when alarmed.

"With birds, we use predator sounds, but in deer that wasn't effective," says Willis. "The natural deer sounds delivered randomly were extremely effective."

The company also tried using a motion sensor to trigger the sounds. They found that was too late. If a deer has committed to entering an area, they won't likely turn back. Instead the sounds are issued periodically 24 hours a day, deterring the deer before they start to enter an area.

The sounds are loud enough that Willis doesn't recommend using them in residential areas. Rather than saturating an area, speakers should be set up to provide an audio "fence" across deer access points. The greater



Deer Shield uses the aggressive sounds of rutting, and territorial warning sounds, to scare deer away. Solar kits are available.

the length, the more speakers needed.

"You don't need to protect every square foot of a crop or area," says Willis. "You just need to cover the access points."

Each Deer Shield speaker effectively protects about an acre, with each base unit supporting up to 4 speakers. The Deer Shield Super Pro is priced at \$545. It includes one speaker, an AC power adapter and a battery cable. If going with battery power, the company recommends using a 12V, group 27 battery with at least 100 Ah. Solar panel kits are also available for \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bird Gard, 270 E. Sun Ranch Dr., P.O. Box 1690, Sisters, Ore. 97759 (ph 541 549-0205; toll free 888 332-2328; www.birdgard.com; www.deershieldtech.com).

How To Plant Cover Crops, Small Grains With Corn Planter

SeedRight seed plates let you accurately seed cover crops and small grains with row crop planters. The seed plates from Davaus retrofit popular Deere, Kinze and Precision Planting planter units for planting small or large seed cover crops.

"Our planter plates let you use your planter to plant small grains and cover crops with more control over depth and population," says Dave Hockemeyer, Davaus. "SeedRight plates replace your current seed discs with little or no adjustment on leading vacuum planters and brush meter planters."

SeedRight plates with cells sized for either larger or smaller sized seeds are available for Deere vacuum planters and Kinze EdgeVac vacuum planters. Larger size seeds are defined as fewer than 35,000 seeds per lb. This includes wheat, cereal rye, triticale and oats.

Smaller size seeds are defined as more than 35,000 seeds per lb. and include radish, turnips and clovers.

The large cell disc will also plant various cover crop mixes containing various seed sizes.

"If farmers are unsure whether their seed mix would work with one of our plates, we encourage them to send in a sample for testing," says Hockemeyer. "We are constantly looking to expand our list of endorsed seeds."

A SeedRight BackerPlate works with OEM plates in Kinze Brush-Type mechanical planters to accurately plant small grains and cover crops. SeedRight also makes a seed plate for use with Precision Planting Meters to plant larger sized cover crop mixes and small grains.

The concept was developed by an Ohio farmer who came to Hockemeyer's prototype and manufacturing company Peridot. After



SeedRight seed plates replace the seed discs on leading vacuum and brush meter corn planters, allowing you to accurately plant small-seeded crops.

supplying him with parts for several years, Hockemeyer acquired the business and has reintroduced it under the new agricultural equipment company Davaus. Davaus also recently purchased the prototype Bi-Rotor combine with plans to develop that technology.

"We have been a service company producing parts for other companies for 20 years," says Hockemeyer. "SeedRight is our first set of proprietary products."

SeedRight plates for Kinze and Deere vacuum planters are priced at \$42 each. BackerPlates for Kinze Brush-Type mechanical planters are priced at \$31 each. The large cell seed plate for Precision Planting Meters is priced at \$39 each. All plates are available direct from SeedRight or through a growing network of OEM dealers including Deere, Kinze and Precision Planting.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Davaus, LLC, 14508 Bruick Dr., Hoagland, Ind. 46745 (ph 260 639-6500; info@davaus.com; www.seedright.com).



Low-cost MODS pre-fab homes made from shipping containers are now available from Amazon.com.

Amazon Now Sells Low Cost Pre-Fab Homes

Need extra living quarters on your farm property for family members, or a nice hunting retreat in the woods? The online retailing giant Amazon.com now sells pre-fab homes made from shipping containers. The MODS 320-sq-ft. house, built in Wisconsin, uses a container as its structural shell and includes a small kitchenette and a living/bedroom area. The MODS home is priced at \$36,000, with another \$4,500 tacked on for shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, search www.Amazon.com for Container Houses.



The 320 sq. ft. house comes with a small kitchenette and a living/bedroom area.

Styrofoam Ball Makes Rain Gauge Easy To Read

Joseph Gibbs mounted a big rain gauge on the deck behind his house. The problem was that he couldn't see the amount of water in it. He solved the problem by forming a small ball out of waste Styrofoam.

"I encased the Styrofoam with a layer of thin aluminum foil and placed it inside the gauge. The ball floats to the top of the water so now I can see exactly how much rain fell by looking out my window," says Gibbs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joseph B. Gibbs, PE, 1115 Club Meadows Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65203 (ph 573 815-0347; JBG6267@aol.com).



Styrofoam ball floats to top of water inside gauge, making it easy to see water level.

Hay-Saving Net Feeder Made From PVC Pipe

"My wife and I were upset by the way our horses were wasting good hay. We feed 2 flakes of hay at a time into a round bale feeder, but the horses would pull the hay outside the feeder. So I came up with the idea of making a small, octagon-shaped 'net feeder' out of pvc pipe and some 5 by 5-in. netting," says David Coons, Sheffield, Mass.

He assembled 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe with eight 45-degree elbows into an octagon shape, with a plug located in one of the sections. He bought the 5 by 5-in. netting from Hay Chix (www.haychix.com) and tied it onto the entire perimeter of the octagon, using cord that came with the netting. Then he removed the plug and poured about 10 lbs. of fine sand into the pipe.

He puts the 2 flakes inside the round bale feeder, then lays the net feeder over them.

"Hay nets control the amount of hay your horse is able to consume at any one time, which reduces waste. And it doesn't cost much to put together," says Coons. "You can make any size octagon depending on the size of your bale feeder. Ours measures 4 ft. across."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David



Octagon-shaped "net feeder" is made out of pvc pipe and 5 by 5-in. netting. Coons lays it over 2 flakes placed inside his round bale feeder. Note: After having some breakage of PVC pipe, he started using metal water pipe, below.



E. Coons, P.O. Box 441, Sheffield, Mass. 01257 (ph 413 717-1188; dcoons3@hotmail.com).