

## “Made It Myself” Ideas From The UK

Farmers Weekly ([www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news](http://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news)), a British publication, had lots of great ideas entered in their Farm Inventions competition last year. Here's a sampling.



Multi-bale wrapping system allows Tom Carrigan to wrap 25 round bales at a time in a row 5 bales long and 5 high.

### Multi-Bale Wrapper

Tom Carrigan designed a multi-bale wrapping system that allows him to wrap 25 round bales at a time in a row 5 bales long and 5 high. He mounted 2 wrapping dispensers from a standard round bale wrapper onto a metal frame that attaches to his Matbro articulated boom loader.

The dispensers are set up so they overlap and leave nothing uncovered, starting at the bottom of the stack and working up so that the next layer partially covers the previous one. Carrigan has also wrapped machinery in the same way in order to keep it clean during road transport.

### Cow Mover

A homemade attachment lets Albert O'Neill use the bucket on his telehandler to lift and move down animals. The attachment fits into slots on back of the bucket. Two metal poles extend vertically to support a horizontal winch that runs the width of the bucket. Two lengths of rope drop down and attach to the cow's feet.

The low speed, high torque winch operates off the telehandler hydraulics. As the winch winds the ropes in to bring the cow closer, the operator slowly tilts the bucket upward to complete the loading process.

O'Neill also developed a removable magnetic pillow for the cow's head. It snaps



Two ropes drop down from horizontal winch and attach to cow's feet. As winch brings cow closer, operator tilts bucket upward.

over either end of the bucket, depending on the animal's position.



Telescopic plastic pole has a rope lasso threaded through its center to hook around calf's neck.

### Calf Catcher

The hazardous job of taking a newborn calf away from its mother for feeding, tagging or injections led David Powell to build his own cowboy-style, calf catching device.

The telescopic pole, made from a plastic pipe, reaches to 25 ft. and has a rope lasso threaded through its center to hook around the calf's neck, allowing the operator to stand safely outside the pen.



Pole reaches to 25 ft., allowing operator to stand safely outside pen.

### ATV Hoisted To Thwart Thieves

ATV theft is a big problem in many places, including England where William Barton came up with a foolproof anti-theft device that hoists his ATV up into the rafters of his shed.

The ATV sets on a steel frame that's attached to a remote-controlled winch. With the remote control tucked safely away from the ATV, there's no easy way of getting it down to the ground.

Barton hoists ATV up into the rafters of his shed to deter thieves.



Hail bounces off Drape Net netting, which is zip-tied to branches about every 20 ft.

## Protective Netting Stops Hail Damage

After hail ruined 4 apple crops in 7 years, the owners of Chazy Orchards in New York figured there had to be a way to protect crops. During a trip to New Zealand, they found one. It works so well that they recently became North American distributors for Drape Net® crop protection netting.

“We were blown away by the simplicity of it,” says Helen Giroux-Taylor at Chazy Orchards. “Drape Net goes on after bloom when the last petal falls and bees have pollinated, and stays on all summer until you're ready to harvest.”

Because of the way it drapes over the tree branches, hail bounces off the netting, which greatly minimizes damage.

Giroux-Taylor notes that they didn't have hail at their orchard last year, but an orchard 15 miles from them did. “They were thrilled with the results,” she says.

Besides hail, the system protects trees and fruit from sunburn, birds, bats, insects and wind, and it also reduces evaporation of moisture. Yet they can still spray trees through the netting.

Chazy Orchards uses white netting with 12 to 15 percent shade for red apples, but green netting with 15 to 18 percent shade and black netting with 18 to 21 percent shade can be used for other crops in different regions.

The key to easy installation is the implement designed to place the netting over the trees. The 3-pt. mounted machine runs off tractor hydraulics to unroll netting onto trees and to reroll it at the end of the season. The netting is secured with zip ties to branches about every 20 ft. The system can be put in place on about 10 acres/day.

The ties can be cut if pruning needs to be done during the growing season. Or, narrower netting can be used so the whole tree isn't covered.

“It comes in widths from 12 to 36 ft.,” Giroux-Taylor says. “The netting we use



An ingenious 3-pt. mounted unroller drapes netting over trees.

comes 3/4 of the way down the tree.”

The UV-stabilized netting should last at least 10 years. At the end of each season, the spools of netting are wrapped in UV-plastic, capped and left at the end of a row to be used the following year.

“Drape Net is recommended only on mature trees since the netting slows down the growth of young trees,” says Giroux-Taylor.

She invites interested growers to contact her for Drape Net pricing and availability for future seasons. A variety of fruit growers and even blueberry growers have expressed interest. Due to shipping costs, there is a 10-acre minimum.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Drape Net North America, 8957 State Rt. 9, Chazy, N.Y. 12921 (ph 518 593-3600; [www.drapenetnorthamerica.com](http://www.drapenetnorthamerica.com); [hgiroux@drapenetnorthamerica.com](mailto:hgiroux@drapenetnorthamerica.com)).

## Simple “Door Hold” Device

By Chuck Marley

When Lance VanGennip's dad got to the point where he needed a wheelchair, they discovered the storm door made it very difficult to get him in and out of the house. After a short trip to their farm shop near Marble Hill, Missouri, Lance came up with a simple hold open device that attaches to the railing on the front door ramp.

Made of steel pipe with bent rod inserted through it, a flip of the lever locks the door in place. Flip it back for a quick release. Two rods hold the handle a little above the surface so that it's easy to grasp even with gloves on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lance VanGennip, Rt. 2, Box 896, Marble Hill, Mo. 63764 (ph 573 238-5673).



Hold-open device attaches to railing on front door ramp for easier access by wheelchair.