

Walk Through Fly Trap Offers Organic Insect Removal

The Yoder's Fly Trap is a simple and effective method of fly control for livestock. "The fly trap was created by an Amish farmer who farms organically," says Marlin Wengerd of Working Horse Tack. "We ended up with the plans as the farmer simply wanted someone to make these to help other organic farmers."

The concept is simple. Cows walk through the trap single file and brush against the carpeting hanging over the entrance. This scrapes the flies off and brushes them into the wire walls of the trap. "Some flies fly off when an animal walks into a building. The others get brushed off by the carpeting that hangs low enough to touch the animal's back," explains Wengerd. "Flies naturally go toward the light, which takes them into the trap made from aluminum screen. They get caught in the trap and can't get out."

The Fly Trap is made from galvanized pipe, 9-gauge chain link fencing, and aluminum screen that's easy to empty out. It offers an easy, safe, and economical way to control flies. "The trap is completely organic," says Wengerd. "There are no chemicals, and it's easy to use. Once it's set up, no further time or expenses are required."

Customer reviews show how well the Fly Trap works. Many share that it ensures their cattle have clear eyes all summer without them turning to chemicals. Others share that they didn't spend a single dollar on toxic chemicals and that the cows were more comfortable, leading to better growth over the summer season.

The Fly Trap costs \$4,635, plus shipping.



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For FARM SHOW readers, Wengerd is offering a 15 percent discount using code FSM2024. The code will work for thirty days after publication.

Says Wengerd, "Our goal is to help organic farmers. Customers love our fly traps and often buy more after they've used one for a few months."

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The large-capacity carrier filters out small debris through the fence panel, leaving clean firewood behind. "For that reason alone, I'd say it works better than a traditional loader bucket," says Fisher.



Made-It-Myself Firewood Bucket

David Fisher of Syracuse, N.Y., built a firewood-carrying bucket that works with a tractor or skid steer.

"I made it from part of a round bale hay ring and hog panel," he says. "I enjoy turning logs into split firewood, which I store under cover before selling. I built this firewood carrying bucket to make an easier way to move firewood from the wood splitter to several storage areas." The carrying bucket holds about 1.5 face cords of firewood. Fisher fills it directly from the wood splitter and carries the firewood to storage. "It works much better than a regular loader bucket," he explains. "I find it easy to load up the firewood directly into the firewood bucket with minimal handling. In fact, the wood splitter pushes about 75 percent of the pieces into the bucket with no handling."

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It took Fisher about 4 hrs. to cut the square tubing, weld the frame to the quick-attach plate, spot-weld the fence panel into place, and paint it. "I paid \$169 for the 3/8 quick-

attach plate, and the 4-ft. by 16-ft. fence panel was \$59." He used a 1/3 section of a round bale feeder to make most of the frame, adding on a backstop panel. Likewise, he added some 1/4-in. 2 by 2 tubing and 1 by 1 tubing to the round bale feeder to achieve his desired dimensions.

"This is the second one I built. The primary change was to make the backstop a bit taller so it's easier to finish loading the bucket." Fisher estimates his bucket easily holds 1.5 face cords, weighing up to 2,500 lbs.

Fisher uses four retired self-unloading wagons for firewood storage, each with two or three steel sides and a roof. "Those hold 18 face cords, and I also have a traditional woodshed that holds 45 face cords." He uses about 50 modified totes that he handles with a pallet fork and stores under a Quonset roof made from an 18-ft. grain bin cut in half.

"Here's my advice for anyone who wants to make something similar—start with a round bale feeder panel. That'll provide good support under the fence panel. Also, use a heavy-duty quick-attach plate."

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DIY Post Hole Auger

Kurt Madsen, of Theodore, Saskatchewan, built a post-hole auger for his skid steer. "Whenever I rented one, there was always such a hurry to get it back, and the job just never got done right," he says. "I had plans of building a foundation for a shop, for which I needed a bunch of piles drilled. So, I decided to make my own."

He made the auger from scrap materials he had lying around the farm. The auger itself was cut in half because it was used for a different project. "I found a sleeve to fit it and welded it back together. I had a chunk of I-beam left over from when I built my house, which made the main frame," he explains. "The hydraulic motor and hoses came off an old bin sweep that hadn't been used for years, while the gears are off an old swing-away auger that rusted. I dismantled it for the steel and a few parts."

The steel for the frame, which attaches to the skid steer, also came off a dismantled auger. "The extender was made from an old round bar that was mushroomed from both sides from pounding on it."

Madsen found the project to be a success. "Overall, it worked just as well as the Bobcat one I rented. I thought the wheel hub would be its weakness, but it stood right on top of the auger with the wheels off the ground."

He successfully used it to drill through a layer of stones. "I drilled 26 piles, 9 ft. deep. The speed of the auger was excellent when digging and somewhat fast when reversing, which I found helpful for clearing the dirt off the auger. The frame for the skid steer worked great; I could drill straight from any angle and get right on top of it to get down the whole 9 ft. The 26 piles I drilled probably took me 4 hrs., but only because of all the stones I had to work through.

Still, the project took some fine-tuning. "When I came up with the idea of building the auger, I was going to leave the shut-off valve from the bin sweep on so I could set the pressure. But there was no need for it because the auger worked fine without it. Though, I did break the 1/2-in. grade-8 bolt that holds the auger on the hub once. I also badly bent the 2-in.-thick extension from abusing it through the stones. Thankfully, it was easy to straighten on the press. I did plan on building



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it to fit on one of the pallet forks, but I'm glad I took the extra time to build the frame to fit the skid steer. It gave me much better control of the auger, and it was much safer knowing it couldn't fall off. I could've built the extension out of a better-quality metal so it wouldn't bend."

Though Madsen has only used the auger for one project, he appreciates that he put in the effort to build it. "I'm glad I have it lying around the yard now because you never know when you need to dig a hole for some reason."

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Hydraulics control both depth and pitch to create a long-lasting and open channel.

Mole Plow Designed For Heavy Soils

Komb Ag Services, Manitoba, Canada, has developed their 40 Caliber mole plow for tough-to-drain heavy, flatland soils.

"Mole plows were being used in other parts of the world, so I thought, 'Why not here?'" says Komb Ag owner Marlen Bergen. "With this in mind, I built a product that I envisioned to be the most economical, efficient, and effective in our soil."

The plow creates an unlined channel up to 48 in. deep. The necessary horsepower to pull the plow varies depending on soil types, but Bergen says 250 hp. works nicely.

A pre-cutter coulter disk cuts the vegetation and trash in front of the bevel Hardox shank to reduce hairpinning. The plow's walking axles are fitted with greaseless bushings. Hydraulics control both depth and pitch to create a long-lasting and open channel. On the 2024 models currently in production, a specially

designed expander is fastened with a cable, plus a pitch and depth indicator, standard pre-cutter, and shear-bolt system are added.

"The expander has movement to follow the channel during application, but it doesn't hang down," Bergen says. "This eliminates some of the wear points and challenges of other typical expanders."

Manufacturing the mole plow is done in Altona, and units are sold across North America. Bergen is open to adding more Canadian and U.S. dealers.

The 40 Caliber mole plow sells for \$30,000 USD, plus S&H.

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