

One man can install this 6,000-lb. test corner assembly in less than an hour, according to manufacturer.

## 50% LESS TIME AND LABOR TO ERECT

# You'll Like This New Common Sense Fence

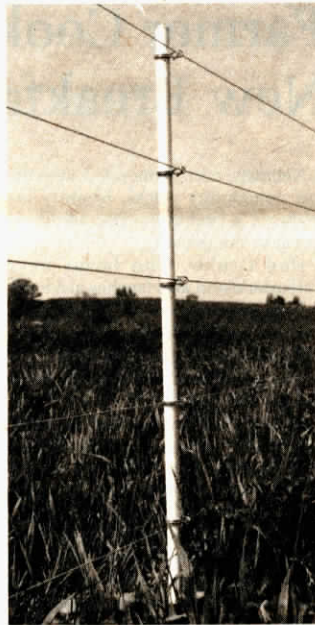
"Farmers and ranchers tell us it's the quickest and easiest fence they've ever installed. The average operator saves 50% in time and labor over other systems. For example, one man can install our 6,000 lb. test corner assembly in less than an hour," says Scott Williams, of AFC Inc., manufacturer of the new fiberglass "Common Sense Fence" system that combines a variety of new materials and designs.

The key to the new system is its fiberglass O-shaped posts that never rot or rust and need no insulators. Wire is held on posts by metal spring clips that can be positioned at any interval, letting the wire run freely through the clip. Stress on the wire is thus equalized over the entire line, reducing the possibility of breakage and sagging. Long lengths of wire can be tensioned through permanently installed in-line ratchet tensioners. According to the company, the fence easily holds voltage levels between 5000 and 6000 volts and will easily last much longer than either barbed or woven wire fence.

Williams notes that the company has offered fiberglass fenceposts for several years but this is the first fence system to offer fiberglass corner posts. "Our corner uses just one post with a diagonal on either side in place of an 'H' brace. It takes just half the time to put up because it requires just three holes and uses easy-to-assemble brackets."

Fiberglass fence is generally easier to work with because posts are so lightweight — you can put 20 to 30 on your shoulder — and no insulators needed.

The standard AFC fence is strung on 1-in. fiberglass corner and brace posts with 1/2-in. dia. line posts and is built up to 5-ft. high with three strands of 16-ga. wire. A heavy-duty version of the same fence uses 2-in. dia. corner and brace posts and 1-in. dia. line posts and may be built up to



Non-conductive fiberglass posts don't require insulators.

6-in. high with 10 strands of 12 1/2-ga. wire.

"The cost of the fence is very competitive with conventional fencing and when you consider the advantages, it's actually much cheaper," says Williams noting that the fence is virtually maintenance free. "The high tensile wire will last 35 to 50 years and a one mile length will stretch up to 20-ft. and spring back with no damage. We use an Australian-built solid state control with very low impedance in sizes that'll charge from 10 to 50 miles of wire."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AFC, Inc., Hwy 52 So., Chatfield, Minn. 55923 (ph toll-free 800 533-1680 or, in Minn., 800 643-9748).

## FEATURES SURFACE INSULATION DISCS

# Ritchie Unveils New Low-Energy Waterer

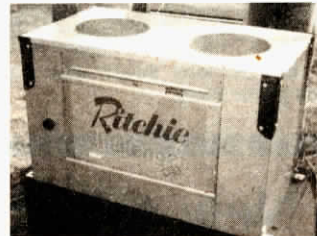
Floating plastic caps help keep water from freezing in an innovative new low-energy livestock waterer from Ritchie that costs about 1/7th as much to operate as conventional waterers and solves many of the problems associated with no-energy waterers, according to the company.

"The lids on no-energy waterers often freeze shut. Also, if cattle are not drinking out of them regularly, they can freeze up because they depend on the flow of water to keep from freezing. This new waterer costs just pennies a day and you never have to worry about it," says Daryl Hertema, design engineer.

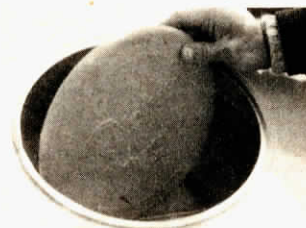
The well-insulated all-stainless steel waterer has two round drinking wells. Each is capped by a floating round plastic cap about the size of a frisbee. The lightweight hollow caps float on the water surface but are easily depressed to get at drinking water. Thermal caps prevent heat loss in winter, keep water cool in summer and help prevent algae from forming.

"Unlike lids on other waterers these take almost no effort to displace. Some lids take 40 to 50 lbs. effort to displace and that takes energy away from animals," says Hertema.

The new Challenger, as it's called, has two 80-watt immersion heaters fitted with an adjustable thermostat that keeps the water just above freezing. The company calculates



Heavily insulated Ritchie fountain features floating thermal caps, below, that help keep surface water from freezing.



that an entire year of operation in the Midwest would typically cost about \$7 to \$10 per year. The cabinet is insulated with 3 in. of foam insulation. The unit easily installs in place of an old waterer and handles up to 125 head of cattle.

Challenger costs \$449.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ritchie Industries Inc., 120 S. Main, Conrad, Iowa 50621 (ph 515 366-2525).

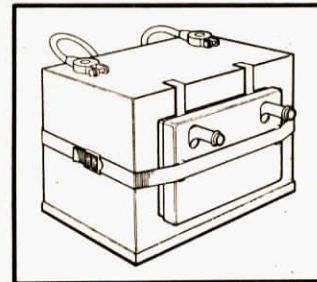
## WARMS BATTERY FOR COLD WEATHER STARTING

# Battery Heating Kit Boosts Cranking Power

Batteries are designed to retain heat but during cold weather they lose a lot of energy due to heat dissipation, according to a pair of inventors who've come up with a new battery heating kit that keeps the battery warm with a "hot pack" heated by re-routed engine coolant.

"The battery hot pack straps to the side of the battery. You simply splice into the heater hose re-routing it to the battery. While operating the vehicle, the engine automatically heats the battery, increasing charging efficiency. The battery's large heat storing capacity retains the heat for many hours after engine shut-off for easy restarts later," says Ron Sanders, who developed the idea with his brother Nick.

In addition to increasing charging capacity and lengthening cool-down time, the battery heaters can also increase the life of batteries by maintaining more even heat and charging



Heater hose is "plumbed" into battery hot pack.

levels, according to Sanders.

The battery Hot Pack sells for \$34.40.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Weatherready, Inc., 7250 Commerce Circle East, Fridley, Minn. 55432 (ph 612 571-8760).