

Free Keep For "Farmed Out" Sheep

Troy Swee, an enterprising 12-year-old 4-H'er from Clay County, S. Dak., gets free keep for his flock of 32 sheep by "farming them out" to neighboring farmers.

It's a good deal for both Troy and his farmer-customers. He gets free feed for his sheep and his customers get free mowing of pastures and farmsteads.

This past summer, Troy's flock of 32 ewes with lambs did the "mowing" on three

neighboring farms. Most any farmstead or pasture is a candidate as long as the area is fenced and has an adequate water supply.

Troy generally runs sheep on a place for about a month, then moves them on to the next farm, using his father's horse trailer. He's had no bad experiences with his "farmed out" sheep getting out, or with stray dogs or other predators.



Calf Saver

"We put hoods on calves born in cold weather or whenever hauling calves in a trailer," says Roxy Johnston, Fillmore, Sask., about her "calf saver" head warmers.

The Johnstons calve out about 75 Simmentals a year starting in early January. "Simmental calves are noted for their beautiful big ears and we like to protect them. The calf hood is made from an old parka hood with holes fashioned for the ears and nose. The ears are left covered. Takes just a little sewing and a couple straps with hooks to fasten it on," says Johnston, adding that the calves don't mind the hoods at all. "Since we started using hoods, none of these potential show calves have lost an ear in freezing weather."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roxy E. Johnston, Box 219, Fillmore, Sask. S0P 1N0 Canada.

Single Strand Electric Fence Protects Crops From Deer

A single strand of electric fence will economically keep deer out of farm crops, says Scott Hygnstrom, University of Wisconsin wildlife ecologist. He studied three types of single strand fences constructed around 36 corn fields ranging from 1 to 12 acres. Deer populations were high—approximately 35 to 55 deer per square mile—where the fences were tested.

Placed 2 to 2.5 ft. high, the three single strand fences were all effective in reducing deer damage to one-tenth that of adjacent unfenced fields. The fences, electrified with New Zealand type energizers, carried a minimum of 3,000 volts.

"Single strand electric fence works because of the psychological barrier it becomes. It's not a physical barrier in any way," explains Hygnstrom. "The idea is to encourage the deer to touch the fence with their nose, thus teaching them it's something to stay away from."

The three types of single strand electric fence Hygnstrom tested were: shiny aluminum foil backed by plastic; bright yellow polyethylene ribbon interwoven with fine strands of stainless steel wire; and steel wire baited with a mixture of equal parts peanut butter and vegetable oil. Statistically, there was no difference in crop loss between fences. Ribbon fence was relatively economical, durable and the easiest to work with. It can be spliced by tying a square



Tire "Quicksplit"

You can make it easier to split wood with the "Quigley Quicksplit" developed by a forestry professor, Don Quigley, at the University of New Hampshire.

According to a recent report in *The American Tree Farmer*, the idea is to bolt two tires together, one on top of the other. Quigley suggests bolting the tires together at three points along the sidewalls. To split, you simply place the wood chunk at the center of the tires. One advantage is that it greatly reduces the amount of bending required to split since the pieces always remain standing upright after being split. It also protects bystanders from flying chunks of wood. Another advantage of the tire-splitting method is that it protects handles on your ax or maul. The tires act as a shock absorber if you under or over-shoot with your swing.

Size of tire should fit the general size of wood you chop. Some wood cutters make up several tire Quicksplits of varying sizes. A flat wood portal can be placed below the tires to provide a firm foundation.

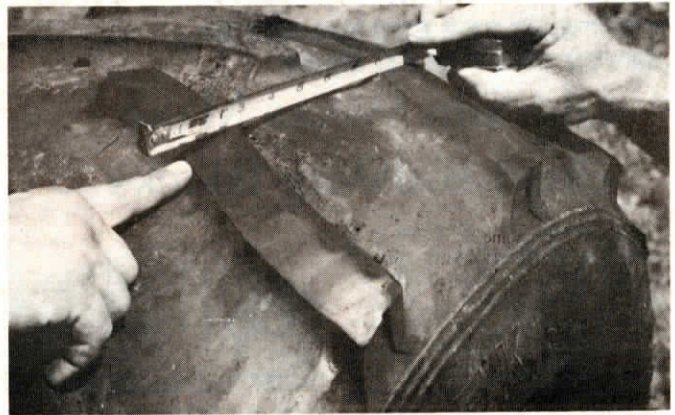
knot, tensioned by hand and rolled up on a spool for storage. Bait such as peanut butter can easily be applied to it, notes Hygnstrom. (Greg Kreuger, Wisconsin Agriculturist).

Cash Crop Weeds?

Weeds make a good cash crop, according to California farmer Larry Kandarian, featured in a recent issue of *Farm Forum Magazine*. Kandarian sells weed seeds to herbicide companies and universities for use in research projects.

Kandarian doublecrops some fast-growing weeds, such as shepherdspurse. Other seeds he commonly raises include Johnsongrass, pigweed, sicklepod, teaweed, quackgrass, cheeseweed, fiddleneck and barnyardgrass. Since most of the seeds are extremely small, the volume is measured in pounds instead of bushels. Shepherdspurse, for example, sells for \$18 per pound.

Kandarian is the only farmer in his area raising weeds for profit. When he first got the idea, he made his own contacts with several herbicide companies. Now he sells his seed to Valley Seed Service, a worldwide seed firm in Fresno, Calif., that markets the weed seed for him.



Sharpened Tire Lugs Boost Pulling Power

Tractor and truck pullers out to gain that last half inch of pulling power call on tire-sharpening expert Wayne Andrews, of Neoga, Ill.

A former puller himself, Andrews has developed a "secret" way to grind lugs and is generally recognized as one of the best tire sharpeners in the business. Instead of the usual grinder, he uses a power knife to square up lugs so the leading edge is higher than the trailing edge. "This makes for constant gripping action and can add 20 ft. or more to a tractor or truck's pulling distance," Andrews points out. "If the trailing edge of the lug is too high, however, this extra gripping action is lost."

If sharpening works so well on tractors used in tractor pulls, would it pay to sharpen up worn lugs on field tractors?

Andrews doesn't think so. "You could easily tear out the rear end of your tractor if you make the lugs so sharp they won't slip. Most tractor pullers start with tires that are about worn out for regular field use. The worn lugs are low down and, when sharpened up, are about right for optimum traction when operated at higher rpm's on the pulling track," Andrews explains.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Andrews, Rt. 2, Neoga, Ill. 62447 (ph 217 895-3515).

Handy "Elephant Trap" For Shed-Stored Grain

An in-ground hopper known as "The Elephant Trap" has solved a lot of grain handling problems for Australian farmer Malcolm Hancock, of Warrachie, SA.

The hopper, sunk into the corner of a concrete floored machinery shed, slopes down to a small center pit from where an auger lifts grain up and out through the shed wall, then into a truck for transport.

During harvest, trucks or wagons bring grain straight in from the combine and drop it in or around the in-ground hopper inside the shed. Thanks to "The Elephant Trap," Hancock doesn't need a grain sweep to pick grain up off the shed floor. He simply pushes it into the in-ground hopper with his tractor loader. (FARM).



Water Tank With Wheels

"One of the best ideas we've come up with in the past few years is a portable water tank we made to water cattle in the field," says Ken Turbett, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

"We used to haul water every day to calves out in the field which took time and was a lot of bother. We had an old fuel tank sitting around gathering dust so we mounted the old tank on a trailer, blocked it into an

upright position, and plumbed a cattle watering bowl into the outlet tap on the tank. Now we only have to fill the water tank once every two or three weeks and take it to wherever we pasture the calves. Works great."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Turbett, Box 33, Rt. 2, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2E6 Canada (ph 204 633-2106).

Protect Lambs From Coyotes

Sheep ranchers may have a new way to save lambs from coyotes, dogs and other predators, according to a recent study performed by researchers at New Mexico State University's Jornada Experiment Range Station.

Called "bonding," the system involves mixing 45-day old lambs in the same pen with yearling heifers and keeping the two

groups together for a 30-day period. Normally, sheep and cattle stay with their own kind when out on the range or pasture. After "bonding," however, the lambs stay close to the cattle. When a coyote approaches, the heifers adopt a threatening attitude to drive the predator away, the researchers report. (Feedstuffs).