

## HAND PUMP EXERTS 10,000 LBS. OF FORCE

# “Alligator” Straightens Bent Irrigation Pipe

Kwinn Enterprises, Quinter, Kan., has developed an “alligator” with jaws powerful enough to straighten damaged irrigation pipe.

The alligator won't eat your livestock or attack your children. It's made of steel and plastic, and powered by a small hydraulic hand pump. Called the Gator Saver, it's equipped with powerful alligator-like jaws which put 10,000 lbs. of pressure to the task of making damaged irrigation pipe look like new.

“In one hour, it can reshape \$200 worth of irrigation pipe,” says the manufacturer. The device can be used to straighten damaged 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 in. irrigation pipe by using 2 different power units and interchangeable jaws or hulls. It's completely portable and can be easily carried by one person for use anywhere, the manufacturer points out.

“Its alligator shape is what makes the Gator Saver so effective,” explains Scott Ikenberry, shop foreman at Kwinn, and son of the man who developed the invention. “Even if the pipe is badly damaged, the unit's

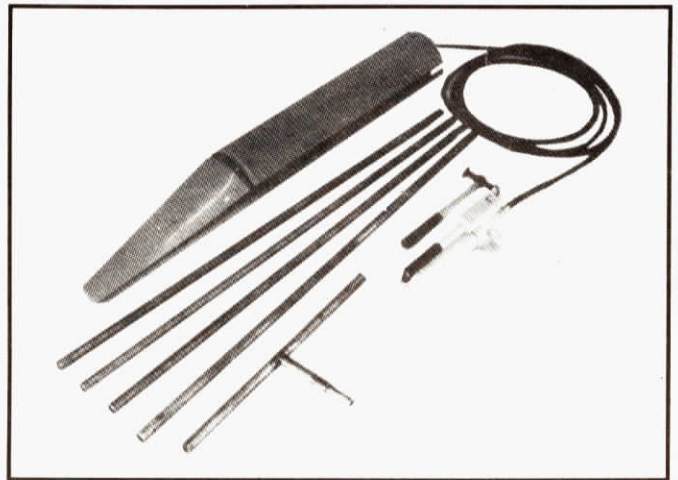
narrow, pointed nose will work its way in to iron out the dents.”

The pipe straightener is about 50 in. long and comes with 20 ft. insertion handles, long enough to reach past the center of 30 ft. pipe sections. Additional 4 ft. handle extensions are available for longer pipe sections.

The hand-powered hydraulic pump is attached to the power unit with 25 ft. of high pressure hydraulic hose. Changing from one pipe size to another is simply a matter of removing a couple bolts and installing the desired hull size on the power unit. Ikenberry says it takes about 15 min. to make the switch.

He notes that the main advantage of having straight, smooth pipe is that dents cause resistance to the flow of water, and resistance cuts pressure. “Only one or two dents in every section of pipe over several miles of an irrigation system can cause a substantial loss of pressure.” Ikenberry also notes that leaky gates can be fixed by using the device to reshape the gate cutout area.

The reshaping hulls are made from



Gator Saver comes complete with power unit, straightening hull, pump, hose and about 20 ft. of insertion handles to reach past middle of 30 ft. sections of irrigation pipe. Alligator shape allows nose to slip into badly damaged areas and open enough room for rest of device.

PVC plastic, the same material used for water mains, and are guaranteed against cracking or breakage.

Ikenberry says some owners have successfully used the Gator Saver to straighten grain auger pipe, a practice he doesn't recommend unless the pipe is of lighter gauge aluminum like irrigation pipe.

The 6 in. power unit, complete with hull, sells for \$490. The 7 and 8 in. hulls to fit it sell for \$90 and \$120. The 8 in. power unit without any hull

sells for \$410; hulls to fit it range from the 8 in., at \$120, to the 12 in. at \$165. Kwinn is developing a new 4 in. pipe straightener that may be a while in coming: “When you're working with pipe that small in diameter, there are a lot of design changes and we're still ironing them out,” Ikenberry told FARM SHOW.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kwinn Enterprises, Inc., Gove Street, Quinter, Kan. 67752 (ph 913-754-2321).

## HANDLES TWO BALES AT A TIME

# Move Big Bales With Your Pickup

“Before we came out with our single-bale mover, skeptics said we couldn't load a big bale with a pickup. Now, we've figured out how to handle two,” says Randall Cox about his new Trans-Unroll bale mover that lets the driver load and unload two bales right from the driver's seat.

Cox's new two-bale system is interchangeable with his single “stabber” system that lifts and moves one big bale with a single hydraulic cylinder. The Trans-Unroll system will fit onto the stabler base, which is bolted to the truck bed, and lifts with the single cylinder. With Cox's new patented design, no squeeze cylinder is needed for the bale handling arms, as with most other systems.

The arms are rigid, being set at the width of whatever size bales are being moved. They are lowered down the sides of the bale and are equipped with two carry spikes. The spikes grab the bale in the center and lift it onto the pickup. It takes about 15 seconds to engage and load a bale.

“The hydraulic unit, which runs off the battery, uses very little power,” points out Cox. “We can

load and unload bales with the air conditioner on.”

The first bale is lifted and dropped all the way forward into the Trans-Unroll's bale basket, a sloping rectangle made of square tubing, that holds the bale while a second is picked up.

The second bale is held upright during transport. Loading time for each bale is about 15 seconds. Switches for operating the hydraulic unit, and the release for the carrying pins, run up to the pickup's cab.

When unloading, the bale already in the handling arms is unrolled first. Then, the arms are raised until the arms of the bale basket are engaged in the arm sockets and a latch tripped to attach them. When the arms are raised again the bale basket will raise also, dumping the second bale on the ground, where it can be unrolled.

The bale handling arms and basket are separate items and can be removed from the lifting base. Cox built it that way so people who bought his single stabber unit do not have to buy a whole new machine. The 12-volt hydraulic unit, and the 3½ in. x 16 in. lifting cylinder, are mounted on a



Bale mover's arms are rigid, set at width of whatever size bales are being moved. Takes only about 15 sec. to engage and load a bale.

frame that bolts to the truck bed. Cox also offers a two-wheel trailer specially built to haul two bales with the Trans-Unroll.

The hydraulic switches can be mounted in the truck cab, run into the cab temporarily, or left on the truck bed near the unit. You can load and unload both bales without leaving the pickup cab, according to Cox.

The Trans-Unroll's lifting capacity is 2,000 lbs. The two-bale unit itself weighs 550 lbs. and sells for \$1,455 complete. All parts can be purchased separately, or in any combination.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randall Cox, Cox Inc., Van Wert, Iowa 50262 (ph 515 445-5165).



Operator controls spikes which, when released, grab bale in center and lift it into pickup.