



Portable Engines Used For Drying, Irrigation

Two identical 359 cu. in. John Deere TA model diesel engines, mounted on portable trailers, save money and time for Illinois farmers Russell and Michael Schwarm.

The two men have pto-driven grain dryers at two different locations and a number of irrigation setups that they use throughout the year. By mounting the two engines on trailers, they're able to use them nearly

year-round wherever needed.

The engines are oversized for operating the dryers - they run only at about half throttle - but when running irrigation pumps, they run at full speed.

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"Gate Jumper" For Electric Fence

"We think this is a great way to run electric fence wire across metal gates without shorting out the fence or electrifying the gate," says Heather Smith Thomas, who ranches near Salmon, Idaho.

"We put electric fencing on non-electric fencing to keep horses from chewing wood posts or poles or to keep stock from rubbing on fences or trying to crawl through. With a strategically placed 'hot' wire, you can keep livestock from reaching through the fence or lying too close to it. The problem is that when you run a wire across a gate, it'll short out if the wind blows it against the metal or anything else causes it to touch metal.

"We solved the problem by slipping a



length of old garden hose over the wire where it crosses the gate to completely insulate the wire. We put a spring-loaded electric fence handle on one end to release the wire when opening the gate."

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"Beefed Up" Chisel Plow Points

After he got tired of the expense and down time required to replace worn-out points on his 8-shank Mohawk chisel plow, Kevin Wuebkers found a way to extend the life of plow points by welding strips of 3/8-in. dia. rebar to both sides of the 2-in. wide points. He also welded short lengths of rebar onto the face of the points to keep the bolt heads from wearing out.

"It saves me a lot of money," says Wuebkers, of Freeport, Minn. "I had been spending \$10 apiece to replace worn-out points, but I haven't had to replace any since I welded rebar onto them over a year ago. The problem was that the sides of the points would wear off, making them less effective and causing the sides of the shanks they were mounted on to wear down also. I also had trouble losing points because the bolt heads wore off."

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How To Keep Deer, Rabbits Out Of Garden

Baler twine soaked in used motor oil will keep rabbits and deer out of gardens and orchards, says "The Friendly Trapper", Harold Bailey of Columbiana, Ohio, who experimented with the idea this past summer.

The Trapper, who makes his living solving pest animal problems for farmers and homeowners, has had many of his unusual ideas featured in past issues of FARM SHOW. He now appears weekly on radio call-in shows in Ohio and Minnesota and has been written up in newspapers around the country. All of his ideas use common products available around the farm and he tests them personally before talking about them publicly. Many of his ideas can be found in a book he published (sells for \$12 postpaid).

To repel deer and rabbits, the Trapper soaks binder twine (the kind that's been pre-treated against rats and mice) in used motor oil and then strings it up on fenceposts or stakes. For rabbits, he puts the twine about 6 in. off the ground. For deer, he strings the twine at about nose level.

The Trapper says he strung about 1,500 ft. of oil-soaked twine around a small orchard and was able to totally eliminate the damage from deer that had been occurring. When he left a gap in the twine, the deer would walk all around the orchard until they

found the hole in the twine and then entered the orchard there.

"Deer and rabbits are very sensitive to smells and won't cross the twine. You can re-treat the fence once in a while using a paintbrush to reapply motor oil to the twine," says Trapper.

If you're unsure what animal is getting into the garden or orchard, you can scatter a 25-lb. bag of flour around the perimeter of the area to see what prints or tracks show up in the flour, and then take sketches of the prints to a library and check them in a wildlife book.

Another idea for chasing deer away that Trapper has tried is a way to enhance the effectiveness of electric fence. Deer often jump right over or even run through electric fence before they get shocked, says Trapper. So he's tried painting paint can lids red and then applying a bit of liquid apple scent - which you can get at a drugstore - to the lids. Then he hooks the lids up to the fence charger so they're electrified. When deer smell the apple scent, they touch the lid with their nose and get a shock that scares them away.

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Combine Modification Solves Return Elevator Plugging Problem

After repeated plugging problems in the return elevator on his Case-IH 1680 combine, Brian Harvey, Durban, Manitoba, finally came up with modifications to the combine that solved the problem once and for all.

"It turned our combine from one that I hated to one that I love," says Harvey. "The return elevator was a real pain. If grain was the least bit tough, we had to slow down to keep from plugging up, or open the chaffer up which allowed more dirt in the grain.

"A couple years ago we made an electric monitor that told us when the return elevator was about to plug so we could slow down and prevent plugging but that didn't solve the basic problem - we still had to slow down. Finally, we went to Harvest Services Corp. (Box 222, Craik, Sask. S0G 0V0) for help and used many of their ideas to rework

the combine."

One problem with the chaffer as it was originally designed was that air was able to escape over the top without separating any grain, says Harvey. In order to solve the problem, he removed the first five slats on the chaffer to allow more air to go through and mounted a rubber block between the front of the chaffer and the grain pan so that all the air from the blower fan is forced to go under the chaffer. He also dropped the front end of the sieve 1 1/2 in., installing new mounting bolts in the combine frame. "The difference is like night and day. Now we can drive our combine so fast that our only limiting factor is engine horsepower," notes Harvey.

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