



Cultivator Row Guide

"After reading in FARM SHOW about various guides other farmers have made for cultivating, I decided to make my own," says Ken Cowman, Cambridge, Iowa, who used steel rod to make a "finger" row guide that mounts on the front right corner of his tractor.

"It rides above the row just to the right of the front right wheel. That makes it easy to see and your neck gets a rest since you no longer have to keep looking back through the cab window. I used scrap pieces of metal to hold a long piece of threaded rod,

which is the main piece pointing down to the row. It can be adjusted up and down as needed. You could easily design it to move back and forth as needed. The rod is angled forward to make it easy to see ahead of the tire.

"The bottom 8 to 10 in. is rigid plastic hose that's clamped onto the threaded rod. The hose bends when it hits the ground crossing waterways."

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Clips Hold Planter Lids In Place

Ken Cowman, Cambridge, Iowa, came up with a simple idea to hold the lids in place on his Deere planter while filling boxes with seed.

He simply used electrical conduit hangers, bolting a pair of them to the underside of each lid and then bending them inward slightly to fit tightly over the box end.

"You can buy the hangers at any hardware store. They're cheap and completely eliminate problems with lids blowing away. New Deere planters have hold-downs but none of the older ones do," notes Cowman.

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Fiberglass Cast Fixes Broken Calf Leg

Dutch farmers and veterinarians have taken an idea from hospitals and adapted it to treatment for farm animals with broken legs.

Scotchwrap casts are made of fiberglass rather than plaster of paris which eliminates problems of soaked plaster casts which become soft and heavy when wet.

A Dutch surgeon first got the idea of trying it on animals and contacted a local vet. Following a successful trial on a lamb with a broken leg, a fiberglass cast was recently used successfully on a calf with a broken front leg.

The fiberglass cast material comes in vacuum-packed bags and has a setting time of 15 min. When no longer needed, it can be



easily removed with a saw or scissors. The only disadvantage is that it's three times more expensive than plaster of paris. (Farming News)



Powered Probe Makes Treating Big Bales Easy

"By injecting bales with anhydrous, we've saved a lot of hay that would otherwise have been lost," says Matthew Hempel, Eldridge, Mo., who came up with a nifty automatic injector that lets him automatically inject anhydrous into round bales without getting off the tractor.

Hempel bales hay along a river bottom where it's often difficult to get the hay dried down after it's cut. "Injecting anhydrous into bales prevents spoilage and also raises the nutrient value of the hay," he notes.

A probe made out of 3/4-in. dia. pipe mounts on the end of a 3-ft. long hydraulic cylinder that Hempel took off an old tractor loader. The cylinder mounts just ahead of an anhydrous tank that's carried on a 2-wheeled trailer. It pushes the probe out to the side of the trailer.

"Within 2 or 3 days after baling, we just drive up alongside bales, activate a hydraulic lever to push the probe into the end of the bale, and then turn on an anhydrous control valve for 40 to 60 sec. before retracting the probe and moving onto the next bale.

"We used to push the probe into each bale by hand. That was time-consuming hard work and dangerous. Now it's an easy, quick job. And it cost very little to make."

Hempel made the probe by forming a point on the end of the piece of pipe that seals it off, and then drilling small holes in the outer 12-in. of the pipe to let anhydrous out.

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Stored Pipe Serves As Windbreak

Leonard Wondercheck, Fullerton, Neb., gets year round use out of his irrigation pipe. During the growing season it carries water to his crops. During winter, he uses it as a windbreak for his stock cows.

He drives a steel post on each side of the pipe and piles it up about 6 ft. high on the north side of his feedlot. Bales of hay laid

next to the pipe are hand fed to stock. An electric fence wire placed 8 to 10 ft. from the pipe keeps animals away from the pipe and bales.

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