



Easy Way To "Deer-Proof" Hay Stacks

After deer ate their way into a big stack of bales on Bud Visser's farm near Bozeman, Mont., he started looking for a way to keep them out.

"We tried to come up with an idea that would be both cheap and effective," says Visser, who hit on the idea of wrapping the bottom 5 1/2 ft. of the stack with canvas.

He put grommets in the upper edge of the

canvas spaced 10 ft. apart and tied them to bales with pieces of twine. He put one grommet at each corner on the lower edge.

"This material costs just \$40 for 100-ft. rolls. After we had it in place, the deer never touched the stack again," says Visser.

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Double Row Silage Corn

Planting corn in double rows 8 in. apart boosts silage tonnage by one-third to one-half that of corn planted in single rows, according to Wisconsin farmer Tom Johnson.

A side-benefit of double rows is improved weed control since double rows form a canopy more quickly. Johnson credits the practice with the near total elimination of velvetleaf from his farm.

To plant the double rows, he makes one

pass with the planter set up for 30-in. spacing and set at 25,000 plants per acre. Then he doubles back with the planter offset about 8 in. for a total of 50,000 plants per acre. Johnson says the plants actually have more growing room than corn planted at a rate of 32,000 plants per acre. Each plant averages about 8 in. of open space around it since at 25,000 plants per acre, there's about 8 in. between plants in the row. (Wisconsin Agriculturist)

Straw Cover Eliminates Manure Lagoon Odors

Covering manure lagoons or slurry tanks with a layer of barley straw eliminates smells, say Canadian farmers and researchers who are experimenting with the idea.

Florian Possberg, a large hog producer near Humboldt, Saskatchewan, is one of a group of farmers working with the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute to develop an effective cover for stored manure. They've tried a number of different types of straw and, so far, barley has worked the best because it contains a bacteria that removes the smell instead of just masking it.

With a layer of straw in place, researcher Philip Leduc says you can stand right next to a lagoon and not smell a thing other than

fresh barley straw. The straw works for 60 to 75 days before it has to be replaced. Leduc and Possberg have experimented with blowing the chopped straw onto the top of pieces of styrofoam floating on top of the lagoon, which allows one application of straw to kill odors for up to a year. The drawback is that it's time-consuming to float the styrofoam sheets onto the lagoon and it's more expensive.

It takes about a day and a half to cover the surface of a 30,000 sq. ft. lagoon using a straw chopper with a special-built blower that blows the chopped material out over the lagoon. (Western Producer)

"Milk Carton" Fence Keeps Raccoons Out Of Sweet Corn

After trying just about every trick in the book to keep raccoons out of sweet corn, Jack Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa, hit upon a simple "electrified" solution that works.

He uses 1-gal. plastic milk bottles to support and insulate electric fence wire. It's easy to set up and holds the wire - which is threaded through the handles - 3 to 4 in. off the ground.

Gogerty burns back weed growth with Roundup. He installs the fence about 10 days before the sweet corn ripens.

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Mobile Cattle Waterer Built From Old Truck

With a \$1,200 investment and a bit of time and materials for modifications, Bill Lee, Camp Creek, Alberta, built a summer pasture stock waterer that goes wherever his cattle go.

Lee bought a nearly worn-out 1974 International 2,200 gal. tank truck and converted it into a giant mobile waterer for his 120 cows. It lets him pasture his herd on fields without water, avoiding the expense of digging a pond or running waterlines.

Lee doesn't take the truck on the road anymore so he doesn't have to license it. "I'm sure it wouldn't pass a safety inspection but it works fine for what I use it for," he says.

The truck came equipped with a pto-driven water pump for loading the tank so he can fill it from a pond.

He uses a large metal toolbox, which was originally mounted on the side of the truck, as the water trough. He remounted it at the back of the truck, running a short section of 1 1/4-in. pipe from the supply tank to the trough. He made a styrofoam float to control water level in the trough. It connects to a low pressure valve. Water flows into the trough by gravity. The old toolbox lid was modified so it would slide down inside the float to protect the float.

Lee says two cows can easily drink from the trough at the same time. Cattle can't do much damage to the truck since the mirrors are high up and there's a big pipe bumper at the back.

One big advantage of the mobile waterer is that Lee can move it to a new spot each time he refills it. "This prevents manure



buildup and broken ground around the waterer," he notes.

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Night Spraying Works Better, Saves Money

Greg Daws started spraying at night four years ago because he kept getting behind on spraying the 4,800 acres he and his father raise on their farm near Michigan, N. Dak. The problem is that days without wind are rare in that part of the country and Daws doesn't like to spray if wind speed is above 8 mph.

Between wind and rain delays, they often ended up hiring aerial applicators to finish the job.

When Daws started spraying at night, he discovered that calm conditions were just one benefit. Higher humidity and better herbicide performance are other advantages that quickly became apparent. Certain herbicides do a better job when humidity is

high because the moisture gives the chemicals a route into the weeds.

In addition to getting his spraying done more promptly, Daws says he's been able to reduce herbicide rates of some chemicals as much as 60 percent.

He modified equipment for nighttime use by mounting an airplane landing light on front of the tractor and two airplane landing lights on the spray boom. He runs on tramlines in his field that are made by blocking seed openings on grain drills. They make it easier to navigate at night. Daws manufactures and sells his own tramline kit. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greg Daws, Rt. 1, Box 61, Michigan, N. Dak. 58259 (ph 701 259-2135).