



## Flashing Electric Fence Keeps Deer At Bay

After years of experiencing hundreds of dollars of damage to garden crops and trees, Harold Smith, Muscatine, Iowa, decided to find a way to keep deer at bay.

His first step was to put up electric fence. "The problem was that deer can't see the fence wire at night so some times they would plow right through, knocking it over before it had a chance to stop them," he says.

That's when he got the idea of attaching fluorescent lamps to the fence wire that would give a flashing warning to deer as they approach and also let him know at a glance if his fence charger was still working.

"It worked 100 percent last year. I didn't have any damage at all from deer," he says. Smith has two 1/4-acre garden plots as well as a small fruit orchard."

Smith says deer can see the flashing lamps on the fence wire from a quarter mile away at night. Most deer stay away from the area entirely but if they do approach they will nudge the wire with their nose and get a strong shock.

He uses standard 40-watt, 4-ft. fluorescent lamps by hanging one end from the fence wire with a clip made out of 1/2-in. wide galvanized metal that wraps around the contact pins on the end of the bulb and hooks over the wire. The other end of the bulb is grounded to the steel fence post. (Smith says it took a lot of experimenting to figure out how to light up the lamp and he's put together a 4-page set of plans that he sends out for a fee).

The fence wire is positioned about 3 ft. above ground. "Four lamps spaced around



a 1/4-acre garden kept all deer out," notes Smith.

He uses a 5,000-volt Blitzer fence charger. Using about 1/2 mile of fence line with about 20 fluorescent lamps attached, Smith says the charger maintains a near-full charge of 4,650 volts or more. Any solid state, low impedance charger should work.

"I can see two of the fluorescent lamps from a window in the house which is about 500 ft. away. Looking out after dark I can tell at a glance if the fence is still working," says Smith.

He also uses electric fence to keep raccoons out of his garden by positioning one wire about 12 in. off the ground and another 6 in. off the ground. "That has totally eliminated coon damage to sweet corn," he says, noting that he uses small "outrigger" brackets to string the raccoon wires off the same posts used for the wire fitted with the fluorescent lamps.

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## Cheap Way To Keep Marauding Animals Away From Livestock

"I have been raising sheep and goats in the same location for the past 15 years and until 1987 I would lose from 3 to 15 head a year to wild dogs," says L.G. Johnson, Fresno, Calif.

"Most years I would kill 3 or 4 dogs caught in the act, usually at night. In 1987, I lost 83 head of sheep and goats and ended up sleeping outdoors many nights and rigged up lights trying to catch them in the act. I killed 7 dogs that year. At that point, I decided I either had to figure out how to stop the slaughter or stop raising livestock.

"Then I met a man who raised rabbits who had found a way to protect them with a motion sensor light. I bought one and mounted it on a post by the gate of the pen where I water and feed the animals. The motion sensor is aimed at the opening so

that if a dog comes through or if a dog chases the sheep and goats out of the pen, the light comes on, scaring the dogs away.

"It worked great. Since I installed the lights in mid-1988, I've lost just 3 animals and 2 of those were in the daytime. The lights don't do any good during the day so I unscrewed one of the lights (there's two on each unit) and screwed in an electric plug-in. Then I plugged in a transistor radio (tuned to a talk radio station) so that when anything triggers the motion sensor, the radio comes on. It works great to scare away dogs. At night, both the light and the radio work together to scare them away.

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# "Best Ideas"

## He Makes "Free" Diesel Fuel Out Of Used Waste Oil

A Canadian farmer gets "free" fuel for his diesel tractors by mixing as much as 15 percent reclaimed waste engine oil with his diesel fuel.

Ben Kambeitz, Richmond, Sask., says he's been burning waste oil in diesel tractors for more than 10 years. "I can get all the waste oil I need for free. I've tried mixing in as much as 50 percent waste oil but that was too rich and too high in deposits. A 15 percent mix is about as high as you can go and 10 percent is ideal," he notes.

Before he can burn waste oil, Kambeitz must purify it. The first step is to add water. "It sounds strange, but water absorbs impurities, especially anti-freeze, that might be in the oil. I pour two 5-gal. pails of water into a 250 gal. tank of oil and let it settle for a while. Then I run the water off."

Next, he runs the oil through a series of filters. The first is a metal filter that takes out metal particles down to 5 microns in size. The second filter is a simple sock filter that absorbs water and pulls out larger non-

metal debris. Then he runs it through a standard wafer-type oil filter of the type used on semi-trucks. At that point, he blends the oil in with the diesel fuel before running the mix through an ordinary fuel filter.

"The oil never comes completely clean but it's good enough to burn in an engine," notes Kambeitz, adding that key to success of the idea is using lighter, winter weight diesel fuel when mixing with waste oil.

"I burn it in my 3 Case 4-WD tractors and I've never had an injector pump off yet. You don't notice any difference at all. The only problem I've had is that if the tractor's been sitting for a few weeks, the waste oil tends to settle out a bit in the tank. If you rev up the engine under load right away, you can pop off the nozzles. I just take it easy for a little bit after I first start up and then there's no problem," he says.

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## "Hot" Fence Keeps Rodents Away From Silage Bags

Erecting a nylon "Max-Flex" electric fence around plastic silage bags is a good way to keep wild animals from tearing holes in the bags, says Troy Tolan, Pleasant Plains, Ill., who farms and also runs a farm supply store on his farm that sells Max-Flex electric fence fabric.

Tolan circled the silage bag with the nylon fencing, which has an electric filament running through it. It hooks up to a regular fence charger. "It worked better than I ever thought. Animals and rodents stay away from it," he says, noting that the fencing could also be used to keep coons out of sweet corn.

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## Wine Helps Sow Relax During Farrowing

"I raise a few barnyard pigs. One of my sows is at least 500 lbs. (three years old). She has lots of milk and weans big piglets.

"Unfortunately, she has a bad attitude during farrowing. She lays down, pops out a pig, then gets up and nips at it and sometimes tramples the little one. The last time, when she started to farrow (sixth litter) I thought I had nothing to lose, so I gave her two liters of homemade wine. Believe it or

not, she was a changed animal. She laid down and stayed down and had 14 live pigs. None of them had any ill effects the next day.

"I wonder if anyone else has had an experience like this?"

(Sue Chmil, Marcelin, Sask., in a letter to GRAINEWS, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada)