

Pelletizer Turns Stalks, Crop Residue Into 6-In. Dia. Pellets

A prototype, large-scale pelletizer is being tested at the University of Missouri, Columbia. While the prototype machine only produces about 20 lbs. of pellets an hour, the next design is expected to produce 2 to 3 tons per hour and be fully automated. The project is funded by a U.S. Dept. of Energy grant.

“Our expectation is that our device will cost less than conventional pellet machines, use less energy and work without a binding agent,” says Jesse VanEngelenhoven, research director, Ecologic Tech. “We expect the machine to be in high demand for use by commercial loggers, farmers and possibly ethanol producers.”

VanEngelenhoven projects the machine will be ready for licensing within the next two years. The prototype is being used to gauge energy consumption and work out design changes as needed.

The machine presses bulk quantities of switchgrass or corn stalks into 6-in. dia. tablets. The key, according to VanEngelenhoven, is to find the balance between density and air pockets that allows the tablets to maintain their shape during transport and shipping, yet burn easily and completely.

The next stage will be a commercial scale unit that can produce about 17,000 tons of tablets per year. At that point, Ecologic Tech will license the technology.

“We are a company that develops new technologies,” explains VanEngelenhoven. “We would hope to have a company like Deere or AGCO pick up the rights and pay a royalty for every machine produced.”

He says no decision has been made yet as to whether the final machine should be mobile or stationary. “Both have merit, but we would love direct feedback from farmers,” says VanEngelenhoven.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jesse VanEngelenhoven, Ecologic Tech, 2601 Maguire Blvd., Columbia, Mo. 65201 (ph 573 442-0080; jve@ecologic-tech; www.ecologic-tech.com).



Large-scale pelletizer presses switchgrass or corn stalks into 6-in. dia. “pellets”.

“Wild Chance Post Anchor” Keeps Fence Posts From Pulling Up Out of Ravines

Keeping a fence in place at the bottom of a ravine isn’t easy, because the upward pressure from the fence on either side of the ravine tends to pull the post up. The “Wild Chance Post Anchor”, which attaches to any standard steel post, holds the post down, solving the problem, says inventor Patrick Fordyce of Hilger, Mont.

The anchor is easy to install, using only a pair of pliers. After the post is driven into the ground, the natural upward pull of the fence acts to open the anchor under the ground. Instructions on how to attach the anchor are included with each box of anchors.

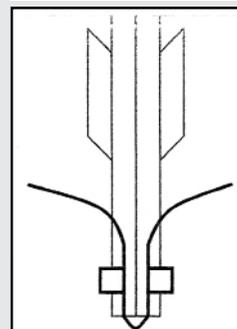
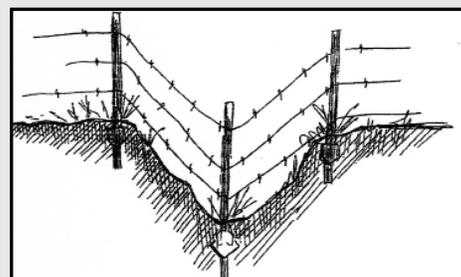
“It works better than anything we’ve ever tried,” says Neta Fordyce. “We have a lot of steep ravines here with rocky ground so it’s not easy to dig holes for a post. We came up with the idea several years ago and have been refining it. So far they’ve worked great in all of our soil conditions. It is easier and less time consuming than any other method we have used.”

The Fordyce’s say they will have a supply on hand for the spring fencing season if anyone wants to give them a try. They will sell for about \$3 apiece and you should allow 3 to 4 weeks delivery.

Contact: Patrick Fordyce, 13411 Salt Creek Road, Hilger, Mt. 59451.

www.wildchanceranch.com

Reader Inquiry No.213



Wild Chance Post Anchor attaches to any steel post with a pair of pliers. As post is pulled upward, wings bow out to hold it in place.

