

“Jack Hammer” Post Pounder

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Fencing contractor Floyd Yoder of St. Ignatius, Mont., found a way to speed up his work by converting a hydraulic-operated, jack hammer-type concrete breaker into a skid loader-mounted post pounder that works like a rapid fire pile driver. He's now manufacturing units for sale.

The post pounder weighs about one ton and is driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off the skids loader's hydraulics. A steel cup on the bottom fits over the top of the post so it can't move or deflect sideways. Yoder uses his Gehl 7810, 100 hp skid loader to operate the unit.

"It's designed and made by a fencer for the serious fencer," says Yoder. "I can drive two posts per minute in a perfectly straight line, and with perfect safety to the operator. I have a local post mill sharpen the posts to a pencil point and then round off the corners so the post won't split. The driver applies 1,000 ft. lbs. of down pressure on the post.

"Another advantage is that it's much easier to put on or take off than conventional skid loader-mounted units. All I do is release the

quick-tach and a pair of hoses. That way I can use the same skid loader for other jobs such as pulling out old fence posts, mowing brush, and so on."

Yoder bought the concrete breaker, which was originally designed to mount on an excavator and came with a chisel point, from a local equipment dealer. A machinist cut off the chisel point and replaced it with the big cup. He also made a 3/4-in. thick steel, quick-tach mounting plate that supports the unit from both sides instead of the top, allowing it to be raised up to 10 ft. high.

"The increased height lets me pound 12-ft. tall posts into the ground," says Yoder. "I've also used it to drive steel pipe posts, but most of the time I use it on treated wood posts up to 8 in. in diameter.

"My Gehl 7810 is 8 ft. wide so it's really stable on steep ground. I made it even more stable by mounting big 46-in. high, 16-in. wide wheels – originally designed for semi tractors – on the skid loader with a lot more clearance over stumps and rocks."

A chain hanging from the post driver helps



Floyd Yoder converted a hydraulic-operated, jack hammer-type concrete breaker into this skid loader-mounted post pounder.

him keep posts plumb. "The chain also serves as a depth gauge, because as soon as the chain hits the ground I know all the posts are at the same depth. I can also use the chain to pull out the post if it breaks or won't go down into the ground."

Yoder offers the post pounder in 3 different

sizes, which apply 500, 750, and 1,000 ft. lbs. of down pressure. Prices start at \$10,500. Yoder is looking for dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Floyd Yoder, 59579 Watson Rd., St. Ignatius, Mont. 59865 (ph 406 239-4824).

Portable Mini Greenhouse

Dick and Min Verstraete's portable greenhouse, made from an old 2-wheel snowmobile trailer, gives them a head start on garden plants in the spring.

The couple's high-altitude location near Anaconda, Mont., means that they have early and late frosts. "We use the portable greenhouse to move bedding plants into the garage at night and then bring them out again during the day," Dick explains. "We can move it around our yard to wherever it'll get the most sun."

The tilt-bed unit is 8 by 6 ft. and sits just over a foot off the ground. Verstraete added a framework of 3/4-in. electrical conduit pipe on the side and used greenhouse plastic to enclose the mini-greenhouse.

The plastic is stapled between two strips of wood, which is then attached to the pipe with short-neck screws.

"We used 6-mil. vapor barrier plastic, but it only lasts a couple of years because of sunlight deterioration and wind," Dick says. "Fiberglass sheeting would be better because it's more permanent and isn't damaged by the wind."



Portable mini greenhouse was made from an old 2-wheel snowmobile trailer.

Around the open back of the greenhouse, there's a wooden frame panel, which raises up the bottom lip height to discourage rodents and deer from entering.

"When it's unhooked and parked, we use bricks to block it for stability," he says. "It cost very little to build and has served us well," he adds.

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Kill Underground Pests With Gas-Powered Tool

Clear out gophers, ground squirrels, prairie dogs and other tunneling pests with the gas powered Cheetah. The small engine does double duty, driving a powerful fan and producing the exhaust fumes the fan pushes into pest tunnels. Developed by Dana Shaw, Cheetah Industries, to control ground squirrels, the pest control package is catching on fast.

"When I moved to central California 4 years ago, there were ground squirrels all over the place," explains Shaw. "I tried trapping and everything else. Eventually, I tried hooking a hose on my car's exhaust."

Shaw realized the exhaust carbon monoxide (CO) needed to be under more pressure to work well. To get EPA approval for rodent control, the concentration of CO has to be at or above 25 ppm for 30 seconds, which starves the brain for oxygen.

The Cheetah motor and fan produce 3,000 ppm of CO in a 100-ft. tunnel in 30 seconds. The engine exhaust enters the tunnels at 195 mph. CO at only 1,000 ppm is lethal in 15 seconds.

Shaw explains that the high CO production level is necessary because of the tendency for gopher and ground squirrel tunnels to cross connect. Regardless of how much CO is produced, once the engine is shut down, the CO is quickly diluted.

The Cheetah consists of a small 2-cyl. engine with a 450-cu. ft./min. blower. The 14-lb. Cheetah comes with a 1-gal. gas container, oil additive for 3-gal. of fuel, a flexible exhaust tube and a tool for spark plug removal. The engine is quiet and EPA approved to meet all standard emissions rules.

Shaw recommends running the engine for only 3 min. to treat up to 400 sq. ft. of burrows. For open burrow animals like ground squirrels, prairie dogs and groundhogs, the flexible exhaust tube is extended 6 in. or



Gas-powered Cheetah uses a small engine and fan to push exhaust fumes into pest tunnels.

more into a tunnel and covered with a few inches of soil. Once the engine is running at full throttle, other entrances within 8 ft. are filled in. If air can be felt coming out of the entrance, it's connected to the tunnel being fumigated. Larger areas may require treating multiple entrances.

Shaw sells his machine direct. "I like to talk to the customer first to be sure they need it, given its cost," he explains.

The Cheetah is priced at \$989 and comes with a one-year guarantee. Shaw claims an 80 percent kill rate with a first application. Following applications can reduce populations by more than 95 percent.

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Wilkinson turns galvanized hog pans into heated bases for chicken waterers by filling them with light bulb sockets. Electrical box and switch mounts outside.



Nifty Heater Keeps Waterers Thawed

"I was tired of buying heated bases for my chicken waterers only to have them burn out a few weeks later," says Caleb Wilkinson of Marshalltown, Iowa.

So, he came up with his own heaters for about \$8 each.

He buys galvanized hog pans at a farm supply store, drills a hole on the side to hold a light bulb socket and adds an electrical box and switch on the outside.

"A 60-watt bulb will keep the tanks or a bucket thawed even below zero," Wilkinson says. When temperatures stay cold for a long

period or dip to minus 20, he replaces the bulb with a 75-watt bulb. When temperatures warm he shuts the bulb off with the switch.

Though there isn't enough heat to cause a fire, he is careful to place the pan on concrete and keep the area around it clean. As an extra safety measure he runs the wiring inside plastic conduit.

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