



Fenceposts fit onto brackets hanging on hooked rods from center pivot frame.



Height of fence line can be quickly adjusted by raising and lowering posts using hand-tightened clamps.

By Loretta Sorensen

Center Pivot-Mounted Fence Makes Rotational Grazing Easier

Pivot Fence© is a patent-pending, university-tested fencing system that attaches to a center pivot to move livestock through a grazing area.

Just 4 simple fittings turn any pivot into a moving fence: truss rod hangers, drive pipe clamps, automatic wire tension system and a last-tower anchor.

Now available through two Nebraska fence consultants, the fencing system gradually takes livestock through a field with a pattern and pace set by the pivot programmer.

The concept came from Jason Gross at the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension. Gross was researching ways to reduce beef production inputs by taking cattle to forage rather than bringing feedstuffs to feedlots. His solution was swath grazing. Searching for a low cost fencing option for the grazing strategy led him to the idea of using center pivots.

Gross hangs fence components from the center pivot truss rods. They hold a suspended electric wire at an adjustable height

as the pivot system intermittently moves across the field. Wire tension is maintained with an automatic tension device, allowing wire to adjust to uneven ground. A perimeter fence surrounding the pivot maintains closure with the electric fence so the fence can move unattended. In wireless and GPS-controlled systems, the livestock producer can move the fence with their cell phone or laptop from anywhere in the world, just as they would move their irrigation system.

“Advantages of the system include the

simplicity of installation and removal,” Gross says. “There’s no need to manually move the quarter-mile fence and movement can be accomplished with just the touch of a button. There’s no alteration to the pivot system and the device works on any pivot brand.”

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“Pinwheel-style” pen results in 4 small pens with a single 2-ft. sq. hay feeder in the middle, which the animals in all 4 pens can eat out of.

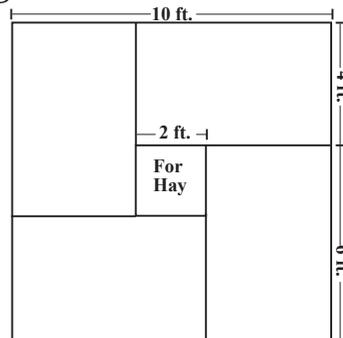
“Pinwheel” Pen Made Out Of Hog Panels

David Schmude and his wife Emily wanted to feed their baby goats without wasting hay. So the Tigerton, Wis., farmers designed a “pinwheel-style” pen that they made out of hog panels.

“It gives me 4 small pens with a single 2-ft. sq. hay feeder in the middle, which the animals in all 4 pens can eat out of. It was inexpensive to set up, and there’s very little waste. Best of all, it eliminates the need to feed hay in each pen,” says David.

All 4 pens measure 4 ft. wide by 6 ft. long. The way the pens are arranged around the feeder, the entire setup measures 10 ft. square. To build the system he starts with four 16-ft. long hog panels and cuts 6 ft. off each one. Then he uses the four 6-ft. long pieces that are left to make the 4 by 6-ft. pens, with a 2-ft. sq. feeder in the middle. The 10-ft. sections go around the outside. He uses string or wire to connect the pens together.

The panels are 3 ft. high. David simply throws bale slices over the panels and into



Drawing shows layout of panels.

the feeder. “I can load hay in from any side without having to throw it more than 4 ft.,” he says.

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Top of barrel is fitted with a piece of clear Plexiglas. Lengths of pvc elbow pipe fit into all 4 sides of barrel, which is filled with 10 in. of water and a smelly bait.

Barrel Fly Trap Catches Thousands

This simple new barrel fly trap is based on the same concept used in those 1-gal. scented fly traps found on many farms. We read about it in the Organic Broadcaster, a publication of the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (ph 715 778-5775; www.mosesorganic.org). The story was written by Jody Padgham. It explains how Kevin Jahnke, a certified organic seasonal dairy farmer from Lancaster, Wis., uses barrel fly traps.

Jahnke starts with a 55-gal. barrel. He cuts a rectangular hole in top of the barrel and screws on a piece of clear Plexiglas to allow sunlight to penetrate the barrel. He cuts holes on all 4 sides of the barrel and inserts lengths of pvc pipe with 90-degree elbows facing the bottom of the barrel. Then he fills the bottom of the barrel with 8 to 10 in. of water, adding a few drops of dish soap as a surfactant. He hangs something smelly, such as rotting meat scraps, inside the barrel.

The flies smell the bait and find their way into the barrel through the pvc tubes. Once inside they’re attracted to the light coming from the window at the top where they congregate and die, as they can’t figure out how to get out. The carcasses fall to the



Photo courtesy Harriet Moses Behar

flies find their way into barrel through the pvc tubes. Once inside, they’re attracted to light coming from window, and can’t get out.

bottom and decompose, which adds to the smell. Jahnke uses a small aquarium net to dip out the dead flies.

Jahnke has 3 barrels on his farm. He says once the trap is set up there’s nothing to do but scoop out the flies. He’s on a rotational grazing system and keeps the barrel fly traps where cattle congregate next to his water tanks. He says darker colored barrels work best.

A video showing how Jahnke uses the barrel fly traps can be found on www.farmshow.com.