

Self-Cleaning Shallow Water Screen

Anyone who depends on river or canal water for irrigation will be interested in this new water-driven, self-cleaning screen that's designed to work in water as shallow as 4 in.

"There's nothing else on the market that can pump out of such shallow water and also clean itself at the same time," says inventor Bob Wietharn.

The Riverscreen floats on four pontoons and draws water from more than 35 sq. ft. of screening area. Water is delivered through a pipe available in 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12-in. dia. with 150 gpm to 4,000 gpm capacity. A screened, rotating drum measuring 32 by 48 in. is supported by an aluminum frame that mounts on the pontoons. Flowing water moves past a series of paddles, which force the drum to rotate and self-clean via a stainless steel mesh screen. As the screen rotates with the drum it goes by a series of jets, which dislodge

anything that sticks to the screen.

An optional electric power drive can be added for use in slow-moving water, tailwater return pits, and manure lagoons. Also optional is a galvanized lift boom that lets one person quickly swing out and gently lower the Riverscreen to the water surface.

"It draws water that's only 2 in. below the surface, which is usually the cleanest water," says Wietharn. "It draws water from seven times the area of the suction line. You can draw from shallower water if you're pulling it from a bigger area, because the the water moves more slowly."



Water-driven, self-cleaning screen is designed to work in water as shallow as 4 in.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Riverscreen, Inc., 1925 Kiowa Road, Clay Center, Kansas 67432 (ph 785 632-5452; email: Riverscreen@kansas.net; website: www.riverscreen.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 138



Calf-Catcher Mounts On ATV

You can safely grab up a newborn calf from the seat of an ATV without worrying about mama cows. VH Mfg. says it makes working baby calves safer and easier than ever before.

The Calf Catcher is a mobile, 4 by 6 by 5-ft. high catch pen with spring-loaded gates. The operator pulls up to a calf, opening the gates with a rope. Once the calf is in the pen, a foot pedal on the operator's platform releases the gates to close and latch.

Initially designed for standard ATV's, extended hitches are available for use with larger 4 by 4 and 6 by 6 UTV's. The Calf Catcher attaches to the front and rear of the ATV with two-wheeled support on the far side.

A third wheel is available as part of a towing package. When not in use, it hangs on the rear of the pen. For towing, the wheel slips on the ATV side of the pen and the rear hitch rotates into a tow position.

VH Mfg. also makes a sling for transporting calves. The sling can be used as part of a weighing option. A lift arm makes it easy to place a calf in the sling for either weighing or transport.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, VH Mfg., Inc., 204 Westview Dr., Rock Valley, Iowa 51247 (ph 888 765-9846; sales@polytin.com; www.calfid.com).

New Way To Drill Your Own Well

If you've checked the price of drilling a new well lately, you know you're looking at an expense of thousands of dollars. That's what prompted a pair of Texas inventors to come up with a new do-it-yourself method.

The heart of the system is an air-powered sander/polisher that can be picked up for about \$35. The Bursons removed the handle to fit the power tool inside a piece of pvc pipe. Then they drilled a hole in the back of the sander's housing so air could exit.

With the right selection of "bits" and a compressor that'll put out 16 cfm at 90 psi, they soon had a well drilling rig. Best of all, Burson says, it practically digs the well by itself. Here's how it works:

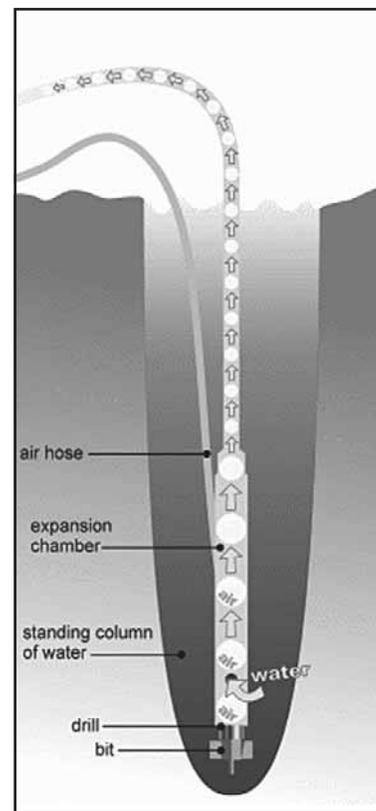
A small hole is dug and water is added. Then the pipe with the sander and bit inside is inserted into the hole. As air passes up the pipe, it creates a vacuum that pulls in the water and soil to the surface through a hose. After filtering out the solids, the water is returned to the hole.

"The most revolutionary idea in the system was using the exhaust air coming out the hole in the sander's housing to remove water and dirt from the hole," says Burson. He reports using the system to dig wells as deep as 210 feet.

Kits ship with bits to drill a hole large enough for a 4-in. thin wall, pvc casing.

The time needed to drill a well depends on the type of soil and the depth needed to find water. In sandy areas of Florida, drilling a well can take as little as a day, while clay and rock can stretch drilling out to a week or more.

Well-Tek sells kits for \$539.95. Plans to



build your own kit and an instructional DVD are available for \$29.95 on the company website, which also features free videos of the system at work

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Well-Tek, 10758 Highway 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; www.howtodrillawell.com).

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