

Dog-Proof Animal Traps Work On-Farm

Trapping became a family business back in 2003 when pro trapper Neil Ziegmann began sharing his techniques and passion for trapping with friends and colleagues. Shortly after that, he formed a company called “Ztraps,” and hasn’t looked back.

“My dad is the one that designed all the traps we offer,” says Jeff Ziegmann. “We started mass-producing them in 2004. Farmers buy a lot of our traps because they regularly have to deal with pests.”

Ztraps offers multiple types and sizes of traps, depending on what kind of pest a farmer needs to get rid of.

“It’s never a good thing when you fire up the combine and there’s a raccoon inside it,” Ziegmann says. “It can go flying through your machine and do lots of damage.

“To take it a step further, a guy told me he parked his tractor in the shed and left the door open for a few minutes,” Ziegmann says. “He shut the door and didn’t realize a raccoon had crawled in there. It was in the cab for six months and destroyed his tractor.”

Ztraps has a special trap intended just for raccoons called the Dog-Proof Trap.

“The trap contains bait, so the raccoon sticks a paw in to grab it, and a small spring triggers the trap, which grabs their paw like a handcuff. It’s designed so that there’s no way a dog’s paw can accidentally spring the trap,” Ziegmann says.

The raccoon trap’s trigger is unique. Whether the animal pushes or pulls on it, the trigger will go off, and the raccoon is trapped.

They also offer live trap cages for a buyer wanting to catch an animal and relocate it.

Ztraps also offers a trap that looks like a tube. The tubes have bait inside them, so the animal crawls in after it, and the door shuts behind them.



Dog-proof raccoon traps by Ztraps are designed so that a dog can’t accidentally spring the trap.

“The benefit of the tube trap is if you trap a skunk, whether it’s on purpose or accidentally, they can’t lift their tails inside the tube,” Ziegmann says. “That means you don’t have to worry about getting sprayed.”

The tube traps come in 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10-in. sizes and are used for squirrels, rats, raccoons, armadillos or other pests of similar size.

The dog-proof trap is made of 16-ga. steel. The cage traps are made of 12-ga. wire that Ziegmann says animals can’t tear apart. The tube traps are constructed out of 16-ga. aluminum.

“Many of the other traps you can buy at different farm-type stores are a ‘one-time’ cage,” he says. “The box they come in is built better than the cage itself.”

Other than the dog-proof traps, Ztraps manufactures all of its traps in-house.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Ziegmann, 270 E. Shore Dr., Lake View, Iowa 51450 (ph 800-656-4504; ztraps@gmail.com; www.ztraps.net).

Simple Soaker Moistens Horse Hay

Wendy Murdoch says her company has a simple and easy way to prepare moist hay for older horses and those with insulin resistance. The Hay Soaker is a self-draining soaker that reduces sugars and dust in dry hay without the mess of water buckets and hay nets.

The unit can even be set up with a Bluetooth timer to run automatically without electricity. Just four AA batteries and a smartphone connection can be used to set the fill and drain timers to run at pre-set times. Hay will be soaked for the required time and ready to feed whenever needed.

The laundry-tub size Hay Soaker is made of tough poly and has a formed cover and an inner basket for hay or other products. It stands on four sturdy legs with two wheels and a handle, so it’s portable and easy to move. Hoses for filling and draining along with the timing device are included. It holds about half of a small square hay bale and can also be used to soak beet pulp and hay cubes.

Available direct from the company, the Hay Soaker is priced at \$1,599 plus shipping, which is handled by UPS to a physical address.



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Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Murdoch Method, P.O. Box 488, Washington, Va. 22747 (ph 540-675-2285; www.murdochmethod.com).



12-volt starter conversion kit for Allis Chalmers G.

12-Volt Conversion Kit For Allis G Tractors

Replacement starters for Allis-Chalmers G tractors can be hard to find, but Meridian Equipment has a solution. For the past year and a half, they have been offering 12-volt starter conversion kits.

“We had a lot of problems finding 6-volt starters,” says Todd Doty, Meridian Equipment. “There are no cores available. We have a man who does starter rebuilds for us, and he came up with the conversion kit.”

The Meridian kit includes a 12-volt gear reduction starter, internal resistance coil, regulator (uses existing generator), a key switch, labeled wiring and instructions. The

cost is \$495 plus S&H.

Doty notes that the only problem he sees is owners just not wanting to switch to 12-volt. However, without cores, conversion is the best option.

“The kit has worked out incredibly well,” says Doty. “All they have to supply is the battery. We’ve had no complaints.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Meridian Equipment, 5946 Guide Meridian, Bellingham, Wash. 99169 (ph toll free 800-905-2141; parts@meridianeq.com; www.meridianeq.com).

How To Make A Bucket Pipe

If you’ve got a stash of 5-gal. buckets, you have the material for a quick, inexpensive pipe, says Carl Stoloski of Appleton, N.Y.

“I took off the bottoms with a jigsaw, stacked them up and pushed them tight so just the ribbed top shows,” he explains. “It’s very thick and you can stand on it and jump on it.”

He created a culvert out of his bucket pipe to drain water away from the front of his garden shed.

The bucket pipe works great and saved him about \$200, the price of 12-in. pipe. The 5-gal. buckets are usually easy to find, Stoloski says, adding it takes three or four buckets per foot.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



5-gal. buckets with the bottoms removed are stacked together to create a heavy-duty pipe.

Carl Stoloski, Appleton, N.Y. (sstoloski@sbcglobal.net).



OPI Blue sends hourly temperature and moisture data to any internet-connected mobile phone, tablet or laptop.

Remote Wireless Grain Management

The OPI Blue system makes it possible to monitor your grain harvest remotely using wireless technology, sensing cables and remote connectivity. The system also helps lower operating costs.

It sends hourly temperature and moisture data to any internet-connected mobile phone, tablet or laptop. The system also comes with 24/7 email and SMS alarms and alerts that create early awareness of any changes in the temperatures of your grain, helping to reduce any potential risks that could lead to spoilage.

The OPI Blue system works to both monitor the grain’s condition and maintains it using the automated fan and heater control.

OPI Blue ensures your crop is watched even when you’re focused on other projects. You no longer need to climb to the top of your grain bins to check their condition, improving worker safety.

Depending on usage, the system will cost \$0.10 to \$0.20 per bushel. Those interested in purchasing the system can request a quote through the company website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Advanced Grain Management, 1216 - 36th Ave. NE, Calgary, AB, Canada T2E 6M8 (ph 800-661-1055; www.advancedgrainmanagement.com/).