

## PreSeason Fencing Sale

Order by February 8<sup>th</sup> for our best fencing prices of the year!

Smooth Wire ¼ mile 17 Gauge (Cost \$17.50)

Smooth Wire ½ mile 17 Gauge (Cost \$32.90)

Galvanized Hex/Poultry Netting 1" Hex 36" High 150' Long (Cost \$45.70)

Galvanized Hex/Poultry Netting 1" Hex 36" High 50' Long (Cost \$17.70)

Electric Sheep Netting 33x150 – White (Cost \$115.50)

Welded Wire 36" High 2"X4" Squares 14 GA 100' Long (Cost \$56.50)

Welded Wire 60" High 2"X4" Squares 14 GA 100' Long (Cost \$92.15)

Welded Wire 60" High 2"X4" Squares 14 GA 50' Long (Cost \$47.95)

PAR-MAK Mark 7 multi power 30 MILE 110-20 VOLT Fencer (Cost \$109.95)

Fiberglass 3/8" x 4' Fence Posts 20/PKG (Cost \$.1.05ea)

Fiberglass 3/8" x 5' Fence Posts 20/PKG (Cost \$.1.35ea)

5.0' Studded T-Post 5/Bundle FRANKLIN - GRAY TOP (Cost \$4.95)

5.0' Studded T-Post 5/Bundle FRANKLIN - GRAY TOP (Cost \$5.75)

Step-In Post 50" – Black (Cost \$2.25)

Step-In Post 50" – White (Cost \$2.25)

**Stop in the store for an order form and a complete list products**

## Upcoming Events

### UVM Extension Agronomy Plus

**Meetings** 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM  
February 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Albans, VT – American Legion – 100 Parah Drive

February 8<sup>th</sup> – Poultney, VT – The Tiny Theater – 153 Main Street

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Vergennes, VT – American Legion Hall – 100 Armory Lane

Register Online at:  
[www.uvm.edu/extension/agronomyplus](http://www.uvm.edu/extension/agronomyplus)  
or call 802-751-8307

### **Bourdeaus' and Bushey, Inc 30<sup>th</sup> Customer Appreciation Days**

**February 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - 8 AM to 4:30 PM Daily**

**Our Best Prices of the Year and 5% Cash Discount**

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Tile Drainage and Manure Aeration*

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Day and Bus to Montpelier for Dairy Reception*

*Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Forage Quality Day*

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Crop Insurance Day*

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – VT Pesticide Applicator Training – Please call to Register.*

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner served daily.



Bourdeaus' and Bushey Inc.  
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(802)-388-7000  
Email: bourbush@together.net

# Write to the Point



Bourdeaus' and Bushey Newsletter

Volume 38, February 2012

### **The Federal Spill Prevention, Control, & Countermeasure Regulation: *What Every Vermont Farmer Needs to Know!***

In the early 1970's Congress passed the Clean Water Act. This Act created a program, called the Oil Pollution Prevention - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program (SPCC), to regulate bulk storage of oil in aboveground storage tanks (AST). This is a federal program and is regulated by US EPA out of Boston, MA.

In brief, the SPCC regulation requires all AST to have sized secondary containment for tanks, general secondary containment for loading and unloading areas, and the facility must have a written plan for spill prevention.

The VT Department of Environment Conservation (DEC) and the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) have joined forces to assist farmers in getting the information they need to comply with the SPCC regulation. The "Information for Vermont Farmers" fact sheet and a web page dedicated to SPCC for farms has been established to assist farms that need to comply with this regulation. Future workshops are in the planning stages and will be held in the next 6-8 months throughout the state.

### **Do you need to comply with the SPCC Regulation?**

- If your farm has a total oil storage capacity of 1,320 gallons (or greater) above ground.

Between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons in above ground storage and have had no oil spills, you may prepare and self-certify your own Plan. If you are eligible to self-certify your own Plan, and no above ground container greater than 5,000 gallons, you may use the EPA Plan template.

You may need to prepare an SPCC Plan certified by a Professional Engineer (PE) if your farm has storage capacity of more than 10,000 gallons; or has had an oil spill of more than 42 gallons on two different occasions within a 12-month period; or more than 1,000 gallons oil spilled in a single event, that has entered Waters of the State.

To learn more about the SPCC rule and how you can "self-certify" please visit the DEC website at:

[www.eaovt.org/sbcap/spccfarm](http://www.eaovt.org/sbcap/spccfarm)

Or contact Annie at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for assistance:

[Anne.Macmillan@state.vt.us](mailto:Anne.Macmillan@state.vt.us) phone #: 802-828-3479 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620

## Vermont Engine Block Heater Timer Program

### What is this program?

Efficiency Vermont and EnSave have teamed up to promote the use of timers for engine block heaters used on farm vehicles during the winter months. Participating Vermont agriculture producers can receive up to four **free** engine block heater timers.

### Why use and engine block heater?

Most farm vehicles, such as tractors, skid steers, and trucks need to have warm engine blocks in order to operate effectively. This is critical during the winter months when you rely on your vehicles or equipment for early morning start up. Use of a timer on engine block heaters allows the heaters to run for just a few hours each morning prior to use of the farm vehicles, rather than having the (electric) engine block heaters running throughout the night consuming electricity. **Using timers reduces electricity consumption and, therefore, reduces your electric bill.**

**Qualifying equipment/terms and conditions:** Tractors, skid steers, trucks, and generators all qualify for the program. To ensure that timers are installed properly, participating farms *may* receive a phone call or an in-person site visit. Timers are free to qualified participants. "Qualified participants" are: 1) Vermont farm owners or operators who, 2) submit all application information requested.

Applications received will be processed on a first come, first served basis. Processing is expected to take a minimum of two weeks. Program may change without notice.

Completely fill out and mail the application card, available at: <http://www.ensave.com/vermont-timer-program.html> EnSave will process the application and mail the timer(s). Please note: If you print the application and want to mail it in you must put the application in an envelope and use a stamp. The pre-paid postage will not work on a printed version of the application.

Please call the EnSave Service Center at 800-732-1399 with any questions

## Amazing talking cow

A man's car stalled on a country road one morning. When the man got out to fix it, a cow came along and stopped beside him. "Your trouble is probably in the carburetor," said the cow.

Startled, the man jumped back and ran down the road until he met a farmer. The amazed man told the farmer his story.

"Was it a large red cow with a brown spot over the right eye?" asked the farmer. "Yes, yes," the man replied.

"Oh! I wouldn't listen to Bessie," said the farmer. "She doesn't know a thing about cars."

## Evaluating Kernel Processing

The 2012 corn harvest is quite a few months away, but now is a good time to evaluate the quality of your corn silage harvest and work on getting equipment tuned up for the fall harvest.

There a few tests available for determining if kernels are being processed well enough to make the most starch available to your cows. Samples can be sent to labs for analysis where dried silage is shaken over a series of sieves. When 70% or more of the starch passes through a 4.75-mm sieve, equal to about a quarter of a kernel, the silage is processed optimally. If 50-70% pass through, the processing is considered average, and a kernel processing score below 50% is inadequate. The test is available from Dairyland Labs and Cumberland Valley Analytical Services, Hagerstown, MD.

Pioneer developed a simpler field test. It somewhat mimics the lab test and can be used during harvest or at the feed bunk to monitor kernel processing as cows are being fed. The company's Kernel Processing Cup is available from Pioneer sales reps, or any 32-oz beverage cup from a convenience store will work.

Fill the cup with chopped corn, empty it on a flat surface, and count the number of half and whole kernels. You don't want to see more than two or three of those in this volume of silage. If you do see more than that, check your chopper for excessive roller mill wear, the gap

between rollers and the roller differential. A 1- to 3-mm roller clearance and 20-30% differential are recommended starting points that can be modified based on periodic physical observation of the silage. All choppers do a better job of processing at shorter chop lengths, so keep the theoretical length of chop at  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) or less.

Evaluating kernel processing in the field at harvest allows for adjustments to be made before silage gets to the bunk and is the ideal situation. However, checking your kernel processing now will give you time to make adjustments before you get started and ensure that your current corn silage is being fed properly.



**Pioneer® Kernel Processing Cup**

Researchers, from the University of Maine in the U.S., believe certain nutrients in dairy products, such as magnesium, could help to stave off memory loss.

They also suspect dairy foods may help protect against heart disease and high blood pressure, which in turn maintains the brain's ability to properly function.

The study was published in the *International Dairy Journal*.