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the flexibility (it is flexibility that we should build into our systems) to control his livestock under any and all situations. Control comes from the safe shock that the power fence gives to the livestock and provides a memorable experience that they do not want to repeat very quickly!

Sapp spoke about the power of the energizer, which he said is "the heart" of the system, and compared it to a tractor. He said that voltage of a charger compares to RPMs of the tractor engine and they are capable of putting out the same RPM numbers. However, the real power of the tractor is measured by the horsepower output and the energizer's power is measured in joules.

Joules is a measure of the power shock of the energizer. With adequate joules the fence system does not need physical strength, because animals will not challenge it if they have that memory of the shocking power. A fencing system must be adequately designed and constructed but the strength comes with the energizer.

Sapp spoke about the carrying capacity (voltage) of the fencing sys-

tem, and he equated it to the carrying capacity of a watering system. He made this analogy: small pump and small pipes in a large system mean little if any water, and the same is true of the fencing system. Large pump and small pipes mean the same, large pump and large pipes in a large system mean plenty of water, and the same holds true for the fencing system. If you use a larger wire diameter (12.5 gauge) and multiple wires for a perimeter fence, it will provide you with adequate electrical charging capacity in your fencing system.

Aluminum wire has a much lower resistance and is much more conductive of current than is steel wire. The energizer should be located as close to the center of the system as possible to allow for a better distribution of current in the system, and with properly located cutoffs, gives you a lot of flexibility.

Sapp discussed in detail the grounding system of the charger. Without a grounding system, the pulse would not complete the circuit and would be completely ineffective, this is also true for a poor grounding system. The system works when livestock touch the wire and the current flows through their body and

out their hooves into the ground and completes the circuit through the earth to the grounding system of the charger. He stressed that the most effective systems have the wires positioned so that the livestock are shocked in the face.

He recommended that a minimum of three galvanized steel ground rods be installed six feet in the ground and be spaced 10 feet apart. The system needs to be tested for resistance with an ohmmeter or a digital voltmeter to see if more ground rods are necessary. A procedure to conduct this testing is provided with most energizers; however, if you need a copy of this procedure, I have it and will make it available to you.

The other point he stressed was that adequate protection from lightning be provided because the

grounding system of your energizer will generally be better than that which is provided by the primary or secondary service on your electric supply system. He provided some practical ideas on this subject and stated that some commercial products only provide coverage for one hit and then must be replaced. He offered ideas that provide permanent protection and these can be made by you or purchased, as new products are available. I can give you some information on this subject if you need it.

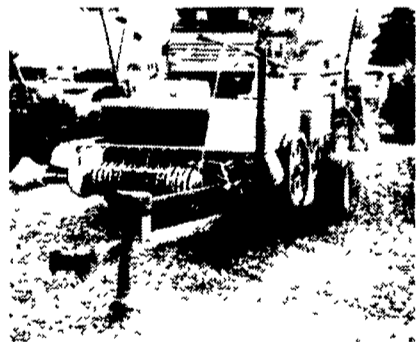
His presentation offered many practical solutions and advice on the design and installation of an energized fencing system. If you have specific questions or need some advice on fencing or energizers, give me a call at my new phone number (717)237-2221. Until next time, happy grazing!



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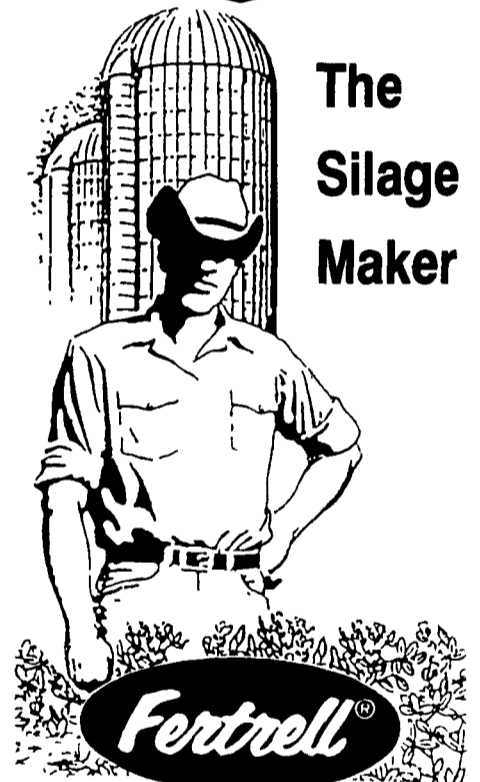
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