

# Flight Pen Construction

## By Chris Theisen

# OUR GOAL:

- Build 24 acres of pens in 5 months
  - 1,045,440 square feet
  - 1900 posts to put in the ground
  - 4 ½ miles of wire to stretch
  - 11 ½ miles of cable to run
  - 2 ½ miles of trench to dig
  - 20,000 staples to pound
  - ½ million rings to install
  - 1 ½ miles of water line to hang
  - 150 gates to build and hang

# Before you do anything...

...Look at the layout – make plans for the future

...Plan on expanding even if you don't have any plans to do so

...Research and ask questions – there are a lot of ideas out there

# Site Preparation

It's easier before the pens go up

Know the entire layout of the pens before doing ANYTHING.

Important part of the process – DON'T overlook it



















**Don't overlook the roads**







Start by pounding the posts



**Hang the cable...**



**...Then you can stretch the wire**

# WIRE INSTALLATION

- Efficient, Simple, and Reliable
- Work smart, not hard
- Efficiency saves money
- Don't give up on initial ideas – improve upon them





Beveled so wire does not get caught

Hinged so pipe can lay on the rollers

Plate with bearings underneath

One person can put wire on the pipe with the rollers

Flatbed allows us to carry multiple rolls



**7 minutes to install  
one roll of wire**

**Run the division fences first**





**Then run the perimeter wire**



## Stretch the wire tight



# DIGGING TRENCHES

Many different ideas and approaches

- trencher
  - Excavator
  - shovel
- 
- Come up with a different idea





## Transition from 6' division fence to 7' lane



**Stretch the lane wire last**















**Easier to install gates  
BEFORE fence and  
netting are up**



## Joyce Hangers for Headers



# Lane Gates



## Channel iron to support kick boards





# NETTING

- Differences in Knotted vs. Woven nets
- Differences in Nylon vs. Polyethylene nets
- Important to get 1<sup>st</sup> net up square











# Run the water line



**Notice water line on outside of pen**





**Plant pens BEFORE pens are finished**



















**Add feeders BEFORE installing the netting**











October 15th, 2006  
24 Acres of pens – complete!



# Remember...

Improve on existing procedures

Keep an open mind

Talk to people – get their input

Work smart – not hard