wagon so we could push or pull it into place easily when manually filling feed bunks. We built up and leveled the wheels with frame work we took off the deep soil so the wagon cleared our 30-in. high bunks.

The wagon held about 800 lbs. of corn silage and 300-400 lbs. of haylage. It worked well for us for years and cost nothing to build. (Dan Peschel, University of Wisconsin, Agricultural Research Station, 7523 University Farm Road, Lancaster, Wis. 53813; ph 609 723-2550)

Last year, Dad and I decided to switch to liquid starter fertilizer from dry. So we removed the rotted out fertilizer boxes from our Deere 290 two-row (38-in.) planter and replaced them with containers for liquid.

We used two 15-gal. chemical containers we got for nothing from our local co-op. We made a framework out of an old curved bed frame and welded it to the planter frame. We plumbed the containers with valves and plastic tubing. The system makes an ideal liquid starter fertilizer applicator that cost practically nothing to build. (Ken Schultz, 4121 S. Albany, Chicago, Ill. 60632; ph 773 927-7336)

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in what I call my “Ron Deere Jr”, a home-built 4-WD tractor with articulated center steering and equipped with a shop-built blade for moving dirt and pushing snow.

I’ve got a 10 hp walk-behind snowblower but this is much faster. I can clean my entire 125-ft. driveway in 15 minutes. The 8-ft. tractor attachment is built by a used 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine with belt drive. It’s coupled to a 4-spd. transmission out of a Dodge Dakota truck. They’re fitted with used 33 by 15-in. tires to provide plenty of flotation. (Canada V0B 1Y0; ph 250 428-4509)

The PC computer software I design for farmers (I am a farmer myself) was named one of the top 20 inventions in the recent American Farm Bureau’s Farmer Idea Exchange.

“History of Fields”, as it’s called, may be the most user-friendly farm record-keeping software I design for farmers. (Bruce J. Peoples, Box 744, Thomas, Ok. 73669; ph 580 661-2298)

The completely enclosed airtight hull, which weighs only 690 lbs., is designed like an airplane wing with three box-type spars running the length of it. The hull is built of poplar and 1/4-in. plywood and covered with epoxy glass, which is more durable than conventional fiberglass. The bottom is coated with a slippery polymer that makes it easy to clean off.

The air boat is powered by a 3.8-liter V-6 engine out of a 1984 Ford Thunderbird I bought from a salvage yard. It provides a top speed of 35 to 40 mph.

To use, you simply back up to the bale feeder and slip the extension through the sides, then raise the 3 pt. The bale feeder slides toward the tractor until it’s stopped by the 3-pt. hitch attachment. The feeders counter balance nicely on the tractor when the 3 pt. is raised.

Sure beats rolling feeders around the place by hand and didn’t cost anything to build since I used scrap pipe. (Tom Tremary, 2900 Keeler Lawrence Ville Rd., Corinth, Ky. 41010; ph 606 824-6216)

We used to clean out boxes, we also use the scraper to level loads in bins and trucks. If your box has a hatch narrower than 14 in. you’ll have to offset the handle in order to reach the corners of an 8-ft. box. (David Mot, Meadowbrook Farms, P.O. Box 3113, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 7N9; ph 902 894-3862)

For what it’s worth, I wanted to offer a couple pieces of advice to farm equipment manufacturers.

First, please put a reasonable tool box on equipment. Something that holds more than a pliers and a hammer and is built out of more than 29 cents worth of materials.

Next, please make protective shields that come off easily. In time, bolts on bolt-on shields get rusty and have to be chiseled off. I’ve changed many of mine over to a stem and tube drop-in style to save valuable time.

Also, how about easier access to everything?

By the way, FARM SHOW is the greatest. I’ll always subscribe. (Walt Ackermann, Rt. 2, Box 42, Lakefield, Minn. 56150; ph 507 662-5303)

We build our first pool shade five years ago and liked it so much we now have them on our Deere 5400, 6200 and our old M.

The pools cost only $11 or $12 (a far cry from what you’d pay for commercial sun shades). It doesn’t matter whether pools are decorated with ducky or fishies, they all work great.

Incidentally, the Deere 5400 in the photo is also fitted with 24.5 by 11-in. winter grip radial truck tires on front. I find conventional bar grip tractor tires leave too many ruts in fields for my liking, especially on hay ground. The truck tires put more rubber on the ground. Also, there’s tremendous strength in these tires; you never have to worry about wearing them out on pavement. They make the tractor ride just like a Cadillac. (Ernest Ivory, Ivory Farms Ltd., Box 533, Lister, B.C., Canada VOB 1Y0; ph 250 428-4509)

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