

# Reader Letters



ing and provides a better cushion to kneel on.

I do the same thing with my tomato plants, only I place the carpet closer to the plants. That way tomatoes don't touch the ground. (Darroll Kramer, 10706 Co. Rd. 113 N.W., Pine Island, Minn. 55963; ph 507 356-8530)

I read in FARM SHOW about the late Douglas McKenzie's concerns with the 7.3-liter diesel engines used in some Ford pickups (Vol. 21, No. 6).

Sure enough, about a month later my 1993 Ford F-350 with 7.3-liter diesel locked up at 125,000 miles. The problem was a pin hole in the #4 cylinder. Ford offered no help and I had to have the cylinder resleeved and re-built at my own expense.

I understand some Ford diesel owners with trucks up to 10 years old have received a letter from Ford warning them about pin holes developing in the engine if FW-15 conditioner is not added to the coolant. Unfortunately, I wasn't one of them.

It makes me wonder how many Ford (International) diesels are failing with pin holes and/or main bearing failure. (J. Glenn Fisher, 901 Andrews Lane, Chickamauga, Ga. 30707)

We've been extremely pleased with the response we've received from FARM SHOW's article on our "Poor Man's Plasma Torch" (Vol. 22, No. 3).

We've answered nearly 50 inquiries from all over North America, one from as far away as Nova Scotia. And we continue to receive more every day.

Thanks for informing your readers about our unique torch, which comes in portable and shop models that sell for \$549 and \$1,049, respectively. The exposure has really helped us out. (Eric Wolf, Magnum Manufacturing Incorporated, 11030 Arrow Route # 103, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. 91730; ph 909 484-0985; fax 0785; www.MagnumUSA.com)

I got tired of my trailers and other pull-type implements twisting off the 3-pt. hitch on my 1960's Oliver 500D. So I built a hitch stabilizer to prevent the problem.



It's simply a section of 1/4 by 2-in. steel bent into an A-shape and welded to the ends of the drawbar. There's a hole in the apex to accommodate the top link and pin, which keeps the drawbar from rotating and, in fact, keeps it level at any hitch height.

The stabilizer is unlike anything on the market and has been trouble-free so far.

Took only about an hour to build using scrap metal and two welding rods. (John Cooke, Windfield Farms, 403 Barn Hill Road, Monroe, Conn. 06468; ph 203 261-4123)

The weather vane in this photo is located atop my repair shop. I made it out of ornamental metal, and it stands 2 1/2-ft. tall and measures 3-ft. long. It features a Deere 3020 cut out of 12 ga. sheet metal painted green and yellow.

I've made 20 or 30 like it for others. I do mostly tractor weather vanes, but have also built vanes with cows and other farm animals

on them.

I'd be happy to make vanes for FARM SHOW readers if there's interest.



My weather vanes start at \$75. (Don Young, 1725 225th St., Garner, Iowa 50438; ph 515 923-6073 or 3366)

FARM SHOW readers might be interested in this 37 1/2-ft. three-row Vibra Shank cultivator I converted to four rows for better trash clearance. I bought it four years ago and found



it nearly useless for cultivating my peat soils with heavy residue because it plugged up so often.

To solve the problem, I added a fourth row of shanks by welding a 35 1/2-ft. length of 2 by 2-in. sq. beam on front. Six mounting brackets made of 2 by 3-in. angle iron were added to the frame for support. Likewise, two lengths of radius rod run from the front to the rear diagonally on each side to keep the beam from digging into the ground on turns or over rough terrain.

I fitted the beam with 24 shanks and 11-in. shovels that I removed from the original three rows. Instead of the original three rows on 6-in. spacings, the cultivator now has four rows on 8-in. spacings which allows even the heaviest residue to flow right through.

Cost less than \$200 in materials and works fantastic. (Bernard Dease, Box 202, Archerwill, Sask., Canada S0E 0B0; ph 306 323-4315)

We want to share our latest track systems with FARM SHOW readers.

The first unit is our track system for 40 to 150 hp tractor loaders. The RC5051D system features 15 to 24-in. wide track with hydraulic tensioning and variable ground pressure control. Cost ranges from \$14,000 to



\$22,000 depending on tractor size and track used.

The second unit is our new skid steer loader system utilizing 12 to 24-in. wide track. The wheelbase of the track system varies by size of the skid steer, from 64 to 79 in. The system uses hydraulic tensioning and features variable ground pressure control and rubberized drivers for an improved ride. Skid steer



Here's a self-propelled bale hauler I built out of an old combine, a front end loader and various other components I had around the farm. It's a lot handier for hauling 5 by 6-ft. round bales weighing up to 1,000 lbs. than the tractor and dilapidated front end loader I used before.

I started with a 1960's Massey Super 92 combine and removed all the grain cleaning components. I stripped it down to the frame so all that remained was the engine, transmission and wheels. I reinforced the main frame with angle iron and replaced the original steering axle with a wider steering axle off a Massey 410 combine for balance. I also installed a bigger shaft on the center pivot on the rear axle to help handle the front end loader I mounted over the rear axle.

It's equipped with a Leon 707 loader with home-made heavy-duty 4-ft. long bale forks. I use the hydraulic system off a Massey 97 tractor to power the loader.

I also mounted a Leon 10-ft. wide dozer blade in front of the drive wheels. I use it to push dirt and snow and level my driveway.

systems cost from \$10,500 to \$17,500 depending on size of the machine.



Our motto is "If it moves, we can track it." (Dennis Wilkinson, Omnitrac LLC, P.O. Box 520, 2210 East "L" Avenue, La Grande, Ore. 97850; ph 541 963-0139, fax 0768)

Here's the "Little Tractor That Could" that my Dad, Donald, and I built from scratch two years ago. We've since won a lot of blue ribbons for it in area parades.

We use it to pull a home-built 7-ft. blade and two-section drag and with a 4-ft. dozer



blade on front for plowing gardens, leveling driveways, pushing snow, etc. It's got all kinds of power, a lot more than either of the 12 hp garden tractors we used before.

It's powered by a 67 hp engine out of a 1977 junked Subaru car. It's coupled to a 4-speed transmission out of a junked Chevy 1-ton truck. It has a Posi-Track rear end out of a



Cost only about \$400. (Dennis Byski, Box 91, Goodeve, Sask., Canada S0A 1C0; ph 306 795-2906)

junked International Scout we narrowed down to 3 1/2 ft.

The straight front axle out of a 1940's pickup is fitted with the front tires off the rear end of an old Case lawn mower and the rear axle is fitted with duals that came off of irrigation sprinklers.

The 6-ft. long frame (the tractor measures 5-ft. wide from outside to outside duals) was built from the ground up out of heavy-duty 2-in. angle iron, helping to give it an overall weight of 1,800 lbs.

It also has a reworked clutch out of a junked Deere snowmobile that kicks in to give you a top speed of around 45 mph in fourth gear, which is like overdrive. Driving speed depends on how much of the clutch you close up. For example, top speed in first gear with the clutch fully closed is 5 to 7 mph.

Total cost of the project was about \$1,800. (David E. Sleight, 0343 S.W. Montgomery Rd., S. Boardman, Mich. 49680; ph 616 369-2327)

I'd like to add some positive news in regard to your piece, "Ostrich Industry Lays An Egg" (Vol. 22, No. 1). Emu oil can help everything from arthritis to high cholesterol. It contains the good fatty acids which our body requires and is one of the few known products our skin will actually absorb. It works great to provide relief from mosquito bites. It relieves the pain from sunburn and helps to heal the effects of too much sun or tanning lights.

Sports buffs can benefit from emu oil by applying it to sore muscles. Emu oil can also be used on all kinds of cuts, scrapes and surgical scars. It helps to promote healing in surgery patients, diabetics, burn patients, and basically any kind of injury. Every hunter and fisherman should carry emu oil with them because it's a complete first aid kit in a bottle. (Gene Handelmann, Round Prairie 66, Albion, Okla. 74521; ph 918 567-2890; fax 3687)