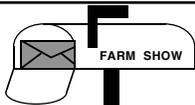


# Reader Letters



*Continued from previous page*

I built an electric can crusher that holds 10 cans at a time. I built it because I'm a Pepsi drinker and have a lot of cans.

It's powered by a 3/4 hp electric motor that drives a 50:1 right angle gear box on back of



the machine. On the opposite side, there's a steel wheel and rod arm that rotates a piston made of 2-in. sq. tubing fitted with a catch on back to hold the cans, which enter the machine through a rack. Ears welded on each side of the machine keep cans in alignment. Cans are contained in a 6-in. long compression chamber, where they're crushed down to 3/4-in. thick. The crusher is built on an angle iron frame and mounts on two wheels so it's portable.

My can crusher compresses 50 to 60 cans per minute, and a friend of mine who owns a bar has used it to crush up to 5,000 cans. We save up the cans until my grandson Kyle comes to visit since he loves to watch it work. **(Kenneth Evers, 12400 South Hausman Rd., San Antonio, Tex. 78249; ph 210 690-2600)**

Ed Mies of Loami, Ill., made this "pre no-till hoe bar" to fluff up the surface of his fields before no-tilling crops. He combined two rows of rotary hoes that he picked up at farm auctions. The front one is a Kewanee with a folding bar. The back one is a Yetter mounted on



an extended 3-pt. hitch. He still needs one more of section rotary hoe, since he's a little short on the right side. But he just overlaps if needed.

Running the hoe through fields in the spring before planting fluffs up the surface just enough to warm it up and loosen it up for better seed-to-soil contact. It also helps wipe out old wheel tracks. **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**

I thought your readers might be interested in my "Poor Man's Trampoline". I wanted a way to accurately spray my fields. I set my drill openers on equal 7-in. spacings on my 10-ft. drill. I moved the center two runs out 2 in. When I plant, I'm careful to leave no extra space between each pass of the drill. I have a 30-ft. sprayer so I can spray 3 drill widths at a time. I drive in the spaces left at the center of the drill. My spray coverage is excellent so I don't need foam or drag markers. **(Donn R. Moore, Norch, Ontario)**

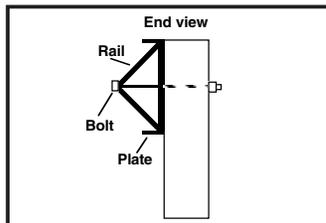
Thank you for running my home-built air filter cleaner on the front page of your magazine (Vol. 21, No. 2). I couldn't believe my eyes

when I saw myself on your cover.

I've received many calls from all over the U.S. to build cleaners. I am currently building a new model of my cleaner and will send information as soon as it's finished. **(Stan Lapinsky, Andrew, Alberta, Canada)**

I discovered an easy way to keep center pivot irrigators moving through muddy spots or waterways. I just bolt old truck tire treads together and lay them down in the wheel tracks. Keeps ruts from forming and provides good traction to the system. **(Marvin Schlueter, RR Box 145, Hardy, Neb. 68943)**

Anyone who depends on fences to pen cattle may be interested in my new fence design. I make an angled rail that's strong enough to withstand punishment from cattle or hogs and



costs just 75 to 80 cents per foot compared to pipe rail designs that cost up to \$3.50 per foot. My rail is made from 3/16-in. thick plate and measures 6 in. wide. One plate goes between the post and rail to secure the section to your post. One bolt holds each rail to the individual posts. Very strong and durable. I'd be interested in building them for sale. **(James Berglund, 1088 11 St., Iona, MN 56141 ph 507 264-3725)**

I snapped this photo of my friend Marilyn Janssen to show a modification he made to his farm truck. He sometimes parks it where



bulls can rub up against it and he got tired of replacing the side-mount turn signals. He used 1 1/2 by 1/4-in. steel bar held in place with 1/2 in. bolts. Solved that problem! **(Rex Mongold, B Stage, Miles City, Mont. 59301)**

Has anyone ever thought of using a laser beam as a marker guide for planters, cultivators, sprayers, etc.? I've seen laser pointers that make an easy-to-see red dot at great distances. For example, they're used on some gun sights. By projecting a laser beam ahead of the tractor, you could easily see where to go without ever turning back. **(Robert D. Austin, 973 E. 180th St., South Haven, Kan. 67140)**

Concerning the story in your last issue, "Free Land Available In Russia", the opportunity to invest in Russian agriculture may not be as rosy as depicted.

According to a recent article in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, the agricultural section is the least reformed of the Russian economy. While the Russian government has given lip service to privatizing former collective farms, laws still prohibit individual farmers from buying or selling land. Less than 5 percent of

The May-June issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 21, No.3) included information from a gentleman named Bill Leffler that casts a negative light on the DMI 4250 dual placement applicator, both on the engineering design and on the follow-up service.

When we learned of the problem through the magazine article, we immediately contacted our dealer, who in turn contacted Mr. Leffler. In checking the situation out, we found that Mr. Leffler did indeed purchase a 4250 applicator through our local dealer, but that the ground-driven piston pump he was having problems with was an aftermarket pump that was included in the package by our dealer. The pump and ground drive were neither manufactured nor sold by DMI.

We are not aware of any attempts by Mr. Leffler to contact DMI. In checking with our dealer, the dealer was unaware that Mr. Leffler had any problems with his unit. The dealer did call Mr. Leffler several times following publication of this article and corrected some of the misconceptions that he had. As one example, Mr. Leffler did have a slide rule that was suitable for use in setting the pump. It is also my understanding that Mr. Leffler will be writing a letter to your magazine to clarify this information.

We understand that Mr. Leffler is now satisfied. **(Tom J. Nix, Product Manager, DMI, Inc., Rt. 150E., P.O. Box 65, Goodfield, Ill. 61742 ph 309 965-2233).**

Russia's farmland is owned by individual farmers.

The Russian agriculture department has acknowledged that 70 percent of Russia's farms are on the verge of collapse and about three-quarters are losing money. Workers on large farms are routinely paid in goods produced on the farm, which they then have to barter. Interest rates on the purchase of tractors and other equipment by individual farmers have been as high as 200 percent. The high cost and low availability of inputs - like fertilizer, herbicides and seed - has resulted in costs which substantially exceed what the Russian government can purchase the same products for from the West. This has resulted in a collapse of the national market.

An investment opportunity such as you described may exist, but the situation seems to call for an extremely thorough investigation first, including how any "profit" could be transferred from Russia to the U.S. **(Ken Scharabok, P.O. Box 792, Waverly, Tenn. 37185)**

In regards to your article on converting used military truck equipment to farm use (Vol. 21,

No. 3), I own two "M-trucks" and an "M-200" trailer somewhat like the one used in the article to make a gravity wagon.

Here are some additional sources for military trucks not listed in FARM SHOW:

Wheco International Inc.  
Mark Williams  
Ainsworth East Ave.  
Pasco, Wash. 99302  
800 348-2414

Jim Grunke Military Trucks  
1070 Grunke Lane  
Weiser, Idaho 83672  
208 549-3400

Northwest Equipment  
Greg or Duke Bedford  
406 727-7700

FARM SHOW is a great paper. Keep it up. **(Dennis Kelsey, 450 E. Yeisley Rd., P.O. Box 1169, Connell, Wash. 99326)**

**Editor's Note: A long-time friend of FARM SHOW recently announced his retirement. Harold Bailey, better known as "The Friendly Trapper", has decided to discontinue active trapping of pest animals and focus solely on his radio shows, newspaper columns, books and public speaking engagements. Bailey, 69, has become well-known for his entertaining manner and unique trapping methods, which he develops by experimenting on animals in his garage.**

The following is a letter he recently sent us:

Many thanks to the thousands of FARM SHOW readers who've bought my book and contacted me over the years with pest animal problems.

Here are a couple new ideas that have been working great for me:

To get rid of an odor in a crawl space that you can't get to - it might be a dead animal - just get a piece of pvc pipe and a



couple pounds of white lime. Insert a leaf blower into one end of the pipe and blow lime up into the smelly area and you'll solve the problem. It'll even neutralize skunk odor. Works in the chimney, too.

We've recently come up with a great way to kill racoons. One of my farmer-clients has had more than 100 racoons in his sweet corn patch. What we do is to pour Coca Cola in a jar lid and then add 3 to 4 tablespoons of Golden Malrim fly bait poison, which you can buy for about \$5.95 at

the hardware store. Racoons will lap it up and die in minutes. So far, we've eliminated about 30 coons in just this one patch. It also appears to work on woodchucks and some other pest animals. We're hopeful that it might even prove effective on coyotes. If you have pets or children around, I recommend putting it inside a piece of pvc pipe. Racoons will find it and pull it out.

We've also been using strawberry and grape bubble gum to kill groundhogs and woodchucks. Break a piece up into 3 or 4 bites and lay it around. It plugs them up and kills them because they apparently can't vomit it up.

Here's a method we've been using to kill moles, gophers, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and other burrowing animals. Get a "Burnsamatic" torch at a hardware store - the kind plumbers use to sweat pipes. Put the nozzle down into the hole or tunnel and pack dirt around it. Turn it on without lighting it. Just a little bit of that gas will put them to sleep. This method is much easier and more convenient to use than trying to run engine exhaust down into a tunnel.

I still have copies of my book which spells out many of my methods. Sells for \$14 postpaid. **(Harold Bailey, The Friendly Trapper, Trapper Publications, P.O. Box 423, Canfield, Ohio 44406)**