

Reader Letters



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Instead, I'd suggest using this safe, fool-proof method. I use a two-component epoxy paste that's available at most hardware stores. I mix equal portions of each component according to label directions, then clean up thoroughly around the rust hole. I apply the mixture generously to a metal screw and simply turn it into the hole. I usually use a heat bulb to expedite the drying process, waiting until the epoxy is completely dry and hard enough (usually in about three hours) to file smooth. If a hole is larger, I simply apply a thin layer of paste to the entire field.

I've been repairing gas tanks this way for 25 years. Not only has it never failed, not one has ever blown up in my face as they can if you use a welder or torch around them. (Larry Zimmerman, Zimmerman Welding, 1156 180th Ave., New Richmond, Wis. 54017; ph 715 246-4890)

As a contract hauler for one of Oklahoma's major newspapers, I load and unload 120 bundles of papers weighing over 3,000 lbs. daily.



To do so as efficiently and safely as possible, I designed and built this "Cargo Helper" for my 1999 Ford Econoline 1/2-ton van. It slides in and out so I can load and unload bundles without having to climb in and out of the van.

There's a sliding hopper at both the side and rear door built out of 1/2-in. thick plywood held together by 2 by 4 bracing. Another sheet of plywood under each one is fitted with 1 by 4's I waxed super smooth so the carriers slide easily on them. The assemblies simply slide into the doors and rest on the floor.

Saves a great deal of time and cost only \$150 to build.

Using only one carrier, the design could easily be adapted to a pickup bed.

I'll make plans available if there's interest. (Johnnie Buttram, P.O. Box 442-A, Stigler, Okla. 74462; ph 918 967-8739)

I've been an enthusiastic subscriber to FARM SHOW for years. But I felt that an article in your last issue (Vol. 23, No. 2) was very irresponsible. The article described how a reader clears gas fumes out of gas tanks that need welding. He takes the tank off a vehicle and pulls out all the plugs and gauges, leaving several openings. Then he soaks a rope in gasoline and lays one end inside the tank and lights the other end. He said the resulting flash ignites the gas fumes inside the tank so you can then weld safely.

The problem is that while this might work under certain situations, it's far more likely that a tragedy will occur. Mixing fire with gas fumes is never a good idea. We've had personal experience with a similar method and the gas tank involved blew through a concrete wall. The potential for death and destruction is great.

As the rest of your article on gas tank welding pointed out, there are far better ways to work on gas tanks, such as filling them with engine exhaust fumes. (Bert Perello, 2391 Redwing Lane, Oxnard, CA 93030)

I read with interest the story in the last issue about the table top bender (Vol. 23, No. 2). A FARM SHOW reader claimed that the North-

ern Hydraulics \$99 table top bender would do the job of a \$398 bender that you had previously featured. I have worked with both benders and the cheap one is a copy from Taiwan. Materials and workmanship are not very good. The original, more expensive bender is the better buy. It's not hard to tell the difference when you use it. (Kent Miller, Vandalia, Ill.)

If you have problems with 4-legged critters digging through your outdoor trash cans, mix up the following critter-chasing recipe:

2 tablespoons liquid dish soap
2 tablespoons cayenne pepper
1 quart warm water

Spray liberally over your trash cans and pest animals will keep away. Repeat occasionally and you won't have a problem.

• Also, to remove skunk odor from pets, wash them in a mixture of:

1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide
1/4 cup baking soda
1 tablespoon liquid dish soap

• You can also use hydrogen peroxide to loosen tight screws. Just put on a few drops and let soak for a bit until it comes loose.

• If pest deer are a problem, try planting some of these deer-repelling fragrant herbs: chives, garlic, onions, lavender, sage, spearmint, thyme, and yarrow. (Karen Ann Bland, Gove, Kansas, in a letter to Mother Earth News)

Thank you very much for your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about my Tart Press. You did a nice job explaining how easy the Press makes it to form all kinds of tarts.



The only thing wrong was that the prices you quoted were U.S. prices, not Canadian. Also, there is a charge of \$6.50 per press for shipping.

I'm just writing this so your readers won't think I increased my prices after your last issue came out. (Caroline Booy, Box 40, Grp. 374, RR 3, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2E7 Canada; ph/fax 204 669-4320)

Due to age, I'm looking for a manufacturer and distributor to take over production and sales of our Sickle Master machine. We have



built and sold 248 Sickle Masters to machine shops and farmers who use it to rebuild and repair sickles on swathers, combines and mowers. It makes it easy to restore a worn



I worked on my mini steam tractor for three years. It's an exact scale replica of a 40 hp. Rumley Advance steam engine originally manufactured in 1912. It was a 225 hp., 2 cylinder tractor. My model has no castings in it. It's all hand made, machined or fabri-

and damaged sickle to like-new condition for about half the cost of a new one. It includes a hydraulic shear to cut off the old knife, and a press that takes out the old rivets. It then sets new rivets with 2,200 lbs. of hydraulic pressure so there's no bar distortion.

The machine is very easy to operate. Most people become proficient at it after just one sickle. Owning a machine is a good sideline business for farmers and repair shops. We also distribute all types of replacement knife sections and rivets. (John M. Froh, Prairie Sickle & Machine Ltd., P.O. Box 142, Khedive, Sask. S0C 1K0 Canada ph 306 422-4744)

People spend thousands of dollars to keep deer, racoons and other pest animals out of their orchards and gardens but I've found a method that's simple and cheap. Just run an electric fence line 1 to 1 1/2-ft. above the ground. Just keep the ground mowed beneath the wire or it will short out. This is a tried and true method that works. (Clarence Tatray, 12121 N. Wood Rd., Reardan, Wash. 99029; ph 409 796-4703)



Long-time FARM SHOW readers may remember my "Doz-A-Loader" bucket featured back in 1980 (Vol. 4, No. 4). It works so well I can't believe others haven't tried to duplicate it.

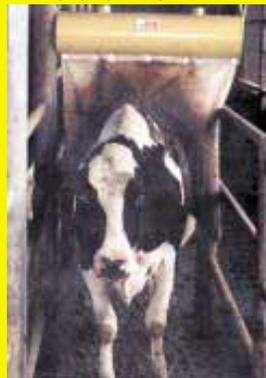
Now, I've patented a unique "Big Hand" grapple that outperforms any other grapple on the market. Unlike others that simply raise and lower to load, mine extends in and out 2 ft. This eliminates the need to get forks or a pan under material, which can then be hydraulically pulled into the bucket.

The grapple is ideal for moving big round and square bales because it allows you to load them onto a trailer lengthwise instead of crosswise, as with a bale spear. That means you'll never run the risk of being tagged for a load that's too wide for the road.

It also works great for handling brush, pine straw and tobacco. With the grapple mounted on my Hough industrial loader (I also have one on my Ford 5000 tractor), I've also moved logs up to 20 in. in dia. and 20-ft. long.

cated as needed in my machine shop. The boiler holds 100 lbs. of steam, which is all the state will allow. The tractor is 87 in. long and 42 in. wide. The rear wheels are 26 in. dia. and 10 in. wide. (Merrel Haakenson, 415 3rd Ave., Dickey, N.Dak. 58431)

I'm proud of my Dad, Alton Hagen, for inventing this new Dairy Parlor Exit Applicator which automatically sprays dairy cattle with insecti-



cide every time they exit the parlor. Research has proven that you can increase milk production 5 to 10% or more by keeping cows free of face flies, lice and other external pests.

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My grapple welds to the loader bucket and fits virtually any make. The only requirement is that the tractor have two hydraulic valves, one for vertical extension and one for lateral extension.

Sells for \$2,000. Includes two hydraulic cylinders, one (8 in. stroke) for vertical movement and a second (24 in. stroke) for lateral movement. (Bruce W. Johnson, 2828 Watkinstown Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27616; ph 919 266-0309; E-mail: Djohn154553@aol.com)