

Reader Letters



Thanks for the update on our new cutting disc replacement blades that fit virtually any mower (Vol. 22, No. 4). Unfortunately the website listed at the end of the story was incorrect. The correct website address is www.megmo.com. (Roy Megli, Megli Lawn Care, P.O. Box 423, Sterling, Ill. 61081 ph 815 625-0125).

My 500-gal. spray tank mounts on a 2-wheel frame that bolts to the back of a 3-pt. sprayer. It provides an extra 500 gal. of storage if you already have saddle tanks on your tractor, or it can be used as the primary spray tank. The caster wheels follow in the same track as the tractor. It's also easy to back up. Part of the weight of the tank is shifted onto the 3-pt.,



taking some of the weight off the assist wheels and reducing compaction. The wheels can be adjusted to fit 30 or 22-in. rows. Larger 750 and 1,000-gal. tanks are also available.

I also custom build heavy-duty sprayers equipped with 60 to 90-ft. long front-mount booms that fold to a width of 16 1/2 ft. and a height of 12 ft. 4 in. One model folds to only 12 ft. wide. The front-mount booms provide good visibility. There's a 14-in. support wheel on each end of the boom on the 60-ft. model and two wheels on the 75 to 90-ft. models. Spring-loaded end sections at the ends of the boom snap back out of the way if you hit a pole or fence. The sprayers mount on oscillating tandem axles that can be adjusted in width from 60 to 120 in. depending on row spacing. Either 3-pt. or pull-type models are available. Tank size is 750 or 1,000 gal. (Tom Turbes, Turbes Enterprise, Rt. 1, Box 255, Lamberton, Minn. 56152 ph 507 752-7713)

Editor's Note: Several readers have asked for the address and phone number of Deines Corp., which was in our "Owner's Report On Best, Worst Riding Lawn Mowers" (Vol. 22, No. 4). It's Deines Corp., P.O. Box 266, Ransom, Kan. 67572 (ph 800 800 624-6774 or 913 731-2271; fax 2383).

Thank you for your writeup about my non-stop baler that eliminates the need to stop when tying bales, allowing it to work at speeds up to twice as fast as today's fastest round baler (Vol. 22, No. 4). I've had a lot of interest from farmers and contractors, but I do not yet have a deal with a baler manufacturer.

My baler has an 8-ft. long bale chamber that's positioned at right angles to the direction of travel. An offset pickup feeds hay into



the bale chamber. After the 8-ft. long bale has been formed, a retractable knife cuts it in half.

I'm now building a new working prototype which I think could increase the output even

more - two bales in 45 seconds or 100 bales per hour. (Geoff Eyre, Traileyre, Bradwell, Derby, United Kingdom ph 44 1433 620353; fax 44 1433 620430)

Thanks for writing about my "cross bladed" push-type mower that I modified to cut brush (Vol. 22, No. 4). So far I've received more than 20 calls from FARM SHOW readers about ways to make the mower even more aggressive. Here's a photo that shows the same concept used in my home-built "Stealth" mower. It's a double-bladed, high-wheeled, 40-lb. mower that I built out of scrap materials. I used 1/4-in. dia. threaded rod to make the axle and handle. With its big flakeboard wheels and flakeboard deck, the mower is light as a feather. It'll cut through tall grass or brush with ease.

The blades extend 4 in. ahead of the deck to cut brush. I lined the wheels with garden hose, using aluminum wire to tie the hose in place. The handlebar is made from 1/2-in. dia.



pipe and has pipe insulation tied onto it for operator comfort. (Daniel Krenzel, 510 Elizabeth St. N.E., Cullman, Ala. 35055).

I coordinate the Honeybee Improvement Program, a cooperative bee breeding program with the goal of breeding bees that can both survive and thrive with no treatment for either of the parasitic mites now decimating our honeybee population. Artificial insemination (in bees often called instrumental insemination) is critical to controlling mating (breeding best to best) as honeybee queens naturally mate with 8 to 20 drones in the air up to six miles away from their colony. Once they start laying eggs they never mate again, having stored semen to use during their lifetime.

In 1995, after a short course on honeybee AI at Ohio State University, I did some hardware store engineering to save money by making my own AI instrument. All told I spent less than \$400. The device includes the sting and ventral hooks used to hold the queen open (done with her anesthetized with carbon dioxide gas - everything is done under a microscope) as well as the Harbo syringe. Commercial units sell for \$900 to \$1,200 so I saved a lot of money. You can learn more about it and about our program on the Internet - look under Honeybee Improvement Program at <http://members.tripod.com/~Griffes/> (Jack Griffes, Onsted, Mich. 49265 ph 517 467-2818)

I mounted a belt-driven pressure washer on front of my Wheelhorse riding mower. Works great for cleaning tractors and other farm equipment. The washer mounts on two angle irons and is belt-driven off the mower engine.

The washer was originally electric-driven but had a replacement motor that wasn't big enough to operate at high pressure without getting hot. Now I can run the pump at full capacity and apply up to 1,500 lbs. of pres-



I made a hand-pulled calf sled by cutting off the top half off a fuel tank from a wrecked International WD-9 tractor. To make the sled I turned the tank over and cut off the filler cap, then welded a steel plate into the filler spout to make the sled's bottom nice and smooth. (I cut the tank just above the seam so to leave a flat edge on top of the sled). I also welded a pair of steel rods lengthwise along the bot-

tom of the sled to act as runners so it won't slide around from side to side as much. And I welded a clevis hitch onto one end of the tank.

The sled glides over rough ground with ease. I usually tie the calf's legs together with baler twine so it can't jump out of the sled. (Doug Sundlie, Wandering River, Alberta, Canada TOA 3M0 ph 403 771-2151)

sure. I think the same idea could be used on other riding mowers. It works best on a side discharge model because of better access to the drive pulley. (Douglas Sommers, 3193 Co. Rd. 58, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 (ph 330 674-4769)

Fifty years ago I graduated from college with a degree in agricultural engineering and started working for SCS-USDA in Sunnyside, Wash. My work area included the Yakima Indian reservation which had its headquarters in Toppenish, Wash. Some years after I took the job I met a farmer on the reservation who needed another vehicle to haul chopped hay for his cattle and came up with a unique solution.

He took a truck with a wornout engine and converted it into a trailer that he could pull behind a tractor. The truck frame was cut and shaped to form a hitch just ahead of the truck transmission. He worked out a connector which tied the transmission shaft to the pto of the tractor pulling the trailer. This allowed him to use the truck transmission to drive the trailer's rear wheels. He said that with both the tractor and trailer wheels driving he never got stuck, even in wet spots. The truck was classified as a farm implement and didn't require licensing. It cost a lot less than buying another truck, even a used one. The use of the tractor pto as a driving force made it a really versatile vehicle. (Oliver D. Jeffords, PE, Consulting Agricultural Engineer, 2153 Beverly Beach Dr. NW, Olympia, Wash. 98502 ph 360 866-1506)

Here's a photo of a "Straw Boss" bale man that we recently put together. The legs are hard core bales about 2 1/2 ft. in diameter while the soft core bale used for the body is



about 5 1/2 ft. in diameter. To make the hat brim I cut off part of a ribbed front tractor tire, then mounted a 12-gal. barrel on top of it and duct taped black plastic to it. The eyes and buttons were made by cutting up a blue plas-

tic pail while the nose and mouth were cut out of a red pail. To make the arms I shoved sticks into the body and covered them with cardboard tubing that was originally used to hold rolls of carpet. A glove is attached to the end of each arm. (Victor Nikiforuk, Box 375, Two Hills, Alberta T0B 4K0 ph 403 657-2855)

We're proud to introduce the Sure-Shot, a highly accurate, more durable and fully adjustable auto-filling syringe. It comes in four sizes which adjust to 1cc, 2cc, 5cc, and 10cc. Once adjusted a locking nut holds it at the desired capacity. The syringe is made from a combination of high-tension surgical nylon and stainless steel. It fills the void left between the less durable but inexpensive plastic, disposable auto-syringe and the more durable but costly fully stainless steel auto-syringe.

The unit rivals the stainless steel models for durability, because it has stainless steel



in areas of wear and stress, yet is comparable in price to the plastic syringes as it has high-tension surgical nylon in non-critical areas which helps keep the cost down. Each unit can be made to have a bottle affixed directly or can be equipped with hose and draw-off to extract liquid medicine from a bottle in a Vac-Pac as much as 4 ft. away.

Each Sure-Shot comes packaged with an extra rebuilding kit and a tube of lubricant.

We also offer a new spray-on livestock marking spray that offers a fast and conve-



nient way to mark livestock. "Spray-On Marking Spray" dries instantly and will last a long time. It's available in red, blue, and green. It comes in 400ml aerosol cans, 12 cans to the case. (Kim Quinn, Vac-Pac, Box 336,

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